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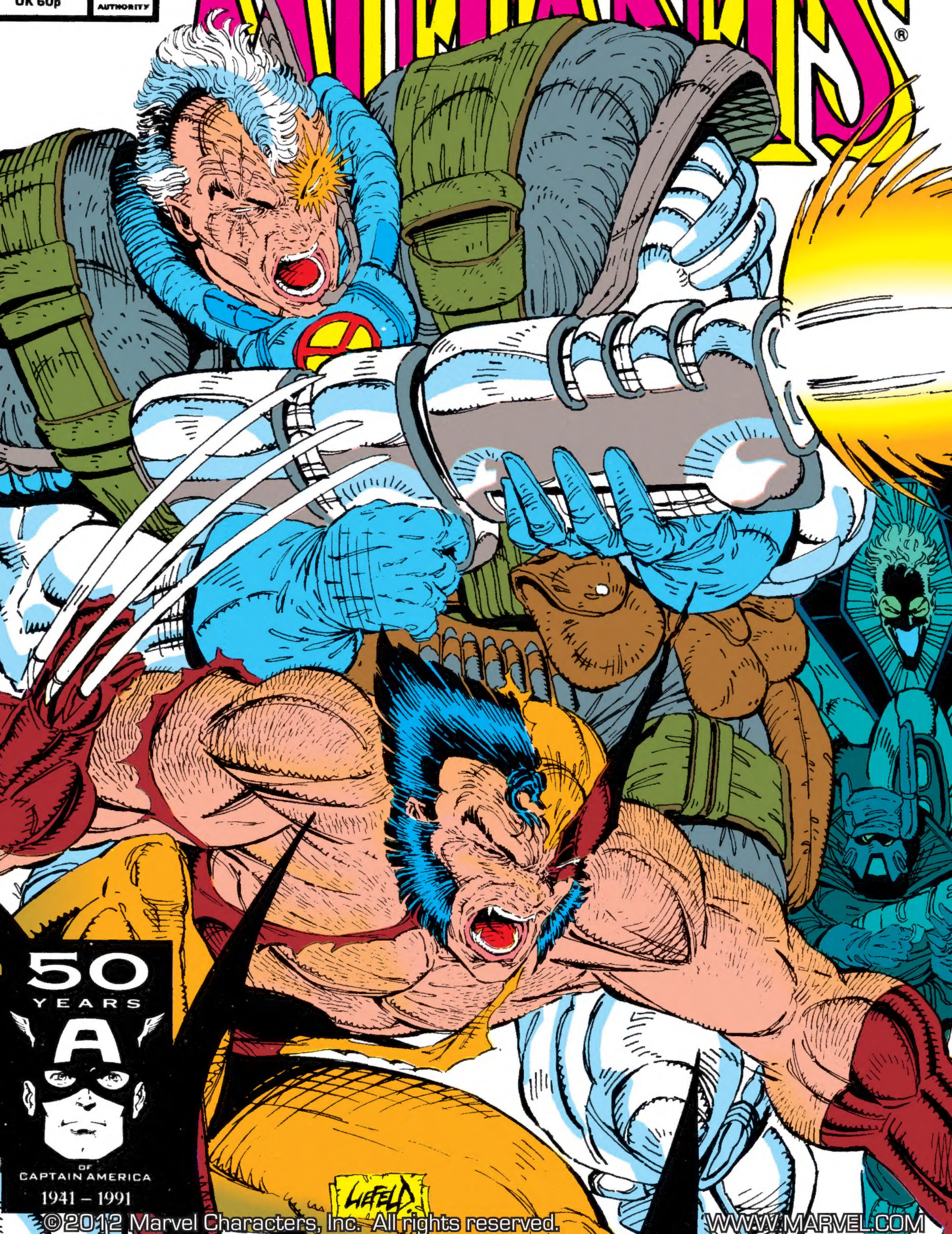
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AUTHORITY

X-TINCTION AGENDA **PART 8**

T H E • N E W

MUTANT



50
YEARS

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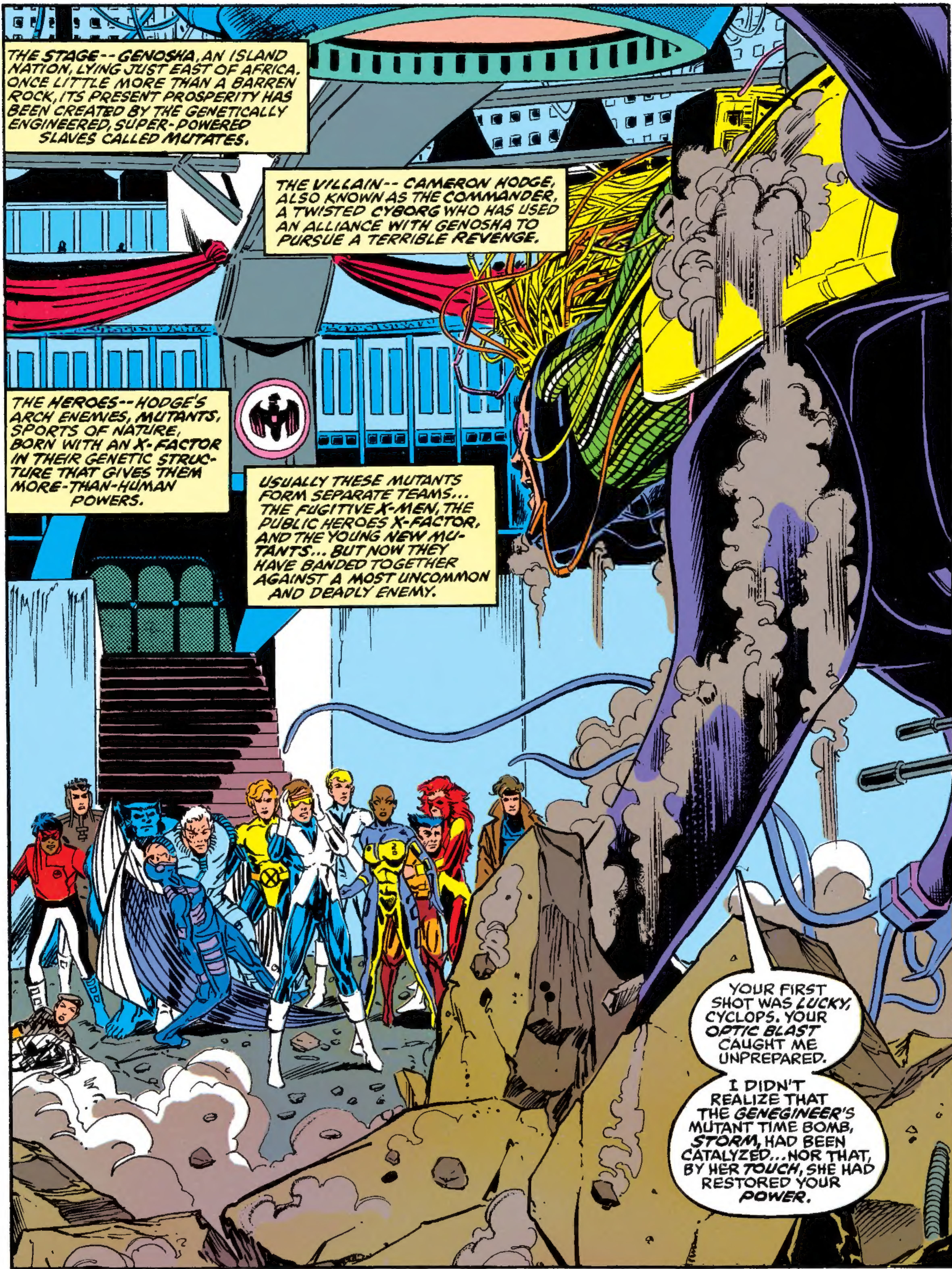
OF
CAPTAIN AMERICA

1941 - 1991

LIFEL

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THE STAGE-- GENOSHA, AN ISLAND NATION, LYING JUST EAST OF AFRICA. ONCE LITTLE MORE THAN A BARREN ROCK, ITS PRESENT PROSPERITY HAS BEEN CREATED BY THE GENETICALLY ENGINEERED, SUPER-POWERED SLAVES CALLED MUTATES.

THE VILLAIN-- CAMERON HODGE, ALSO KNOWN AS THE COMMANDER, A TWISTED CYBORG WHO HAS USED AN ALLIANCE WITH GENOSHA TO PURSUE A TERRIBLE REVENGE.

THE HEROES-- HODGE'S ARCH ENEMIES, MUTANTS, SPORTS OF NATURE, BORN WITH AN X-FACTOR IN THEIR GENETIC STRUCTURE THAT GIVES THEM MORE-THAN-HUMAN POWERS.

USUALLY THESE MUTANTS FORM SEPARATE TEAMS... THE FUGITIVE X-MEN, THE PUBLIC HEROES X-FACTOR, AND THE YOUNG NEW MUTANTS... BUT NOW THEY HAVE BANDED TOGETHER AGAINST A MOST UNCOMMON AND DEADLY ENEMY.

YOUR FIRST SHOT WAS LUCKY, CYCLOPS. YOUR OPTIC BLAST CAUGHT ME UNPREPARED.

I DIDN'T REALIZE THAT THE GENEGINEER'S MUTANT TIME BOMB, STORM, HAD BEEN CATALYZED... NOR THAT, BY HER TOUCH, SHE HAD RESTORED YOUR POWER.

LOUISE SIMONSON
WRITER

GUANG YAP
PENCILLER

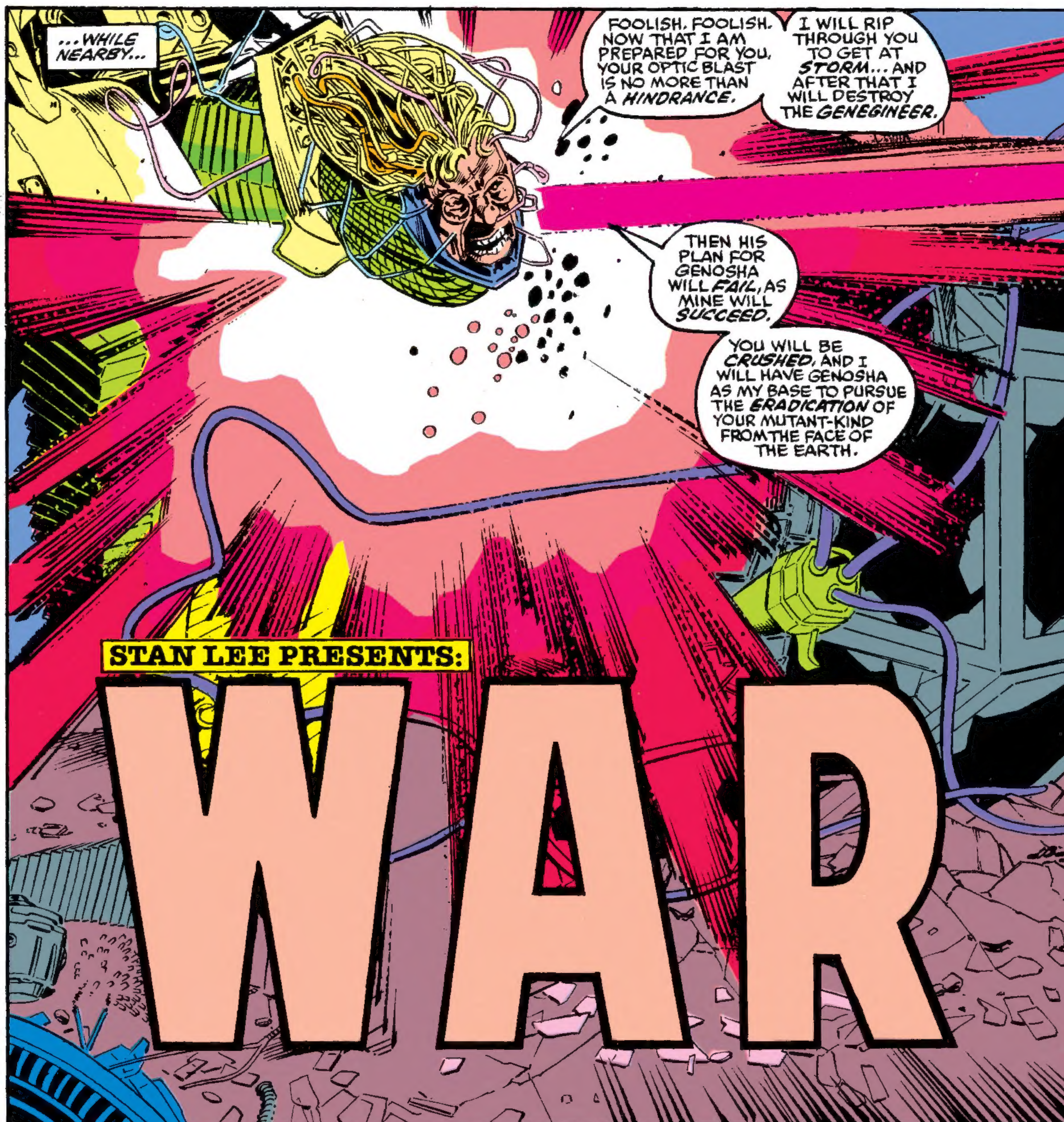
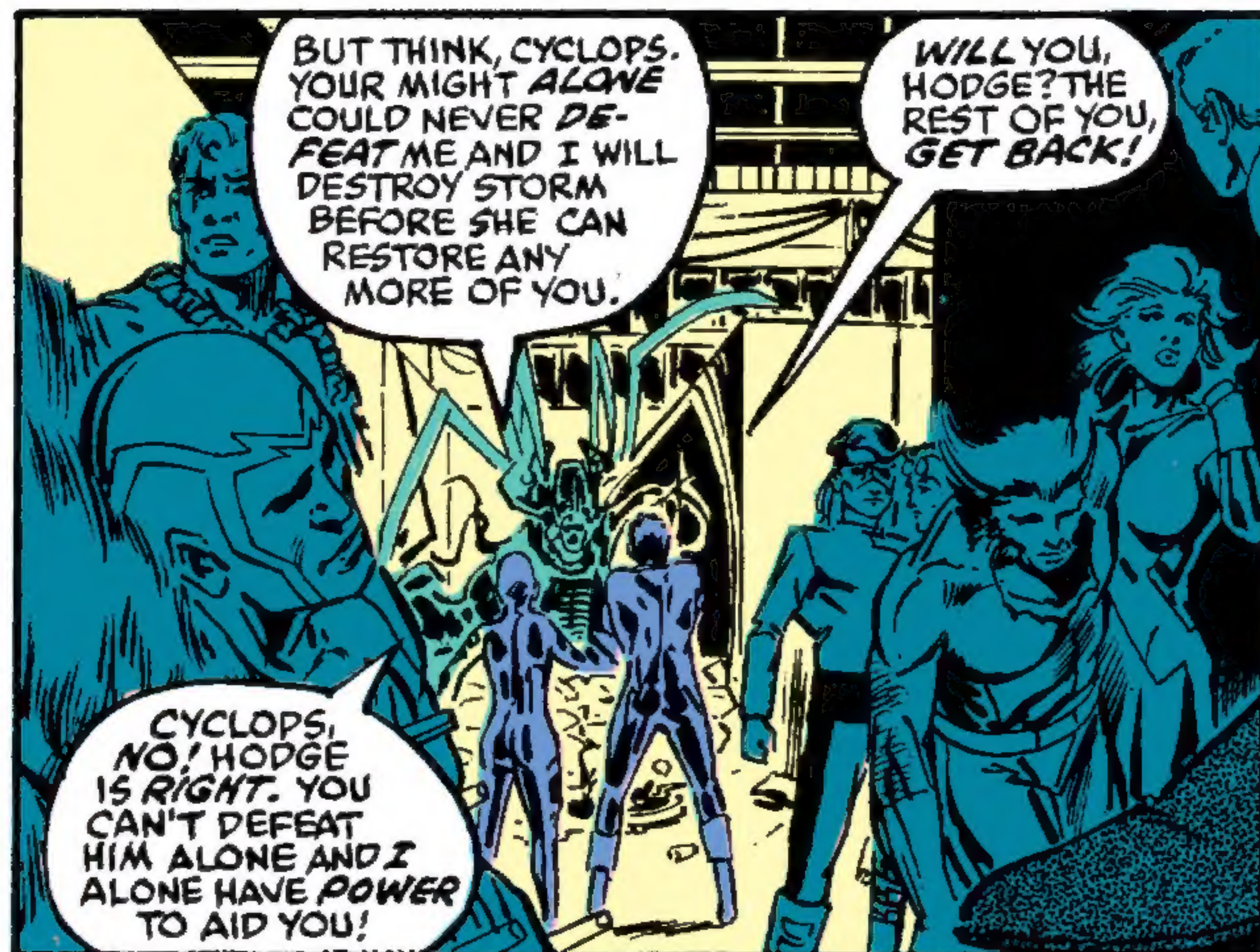
JOE RUBINSTEIN
INKER

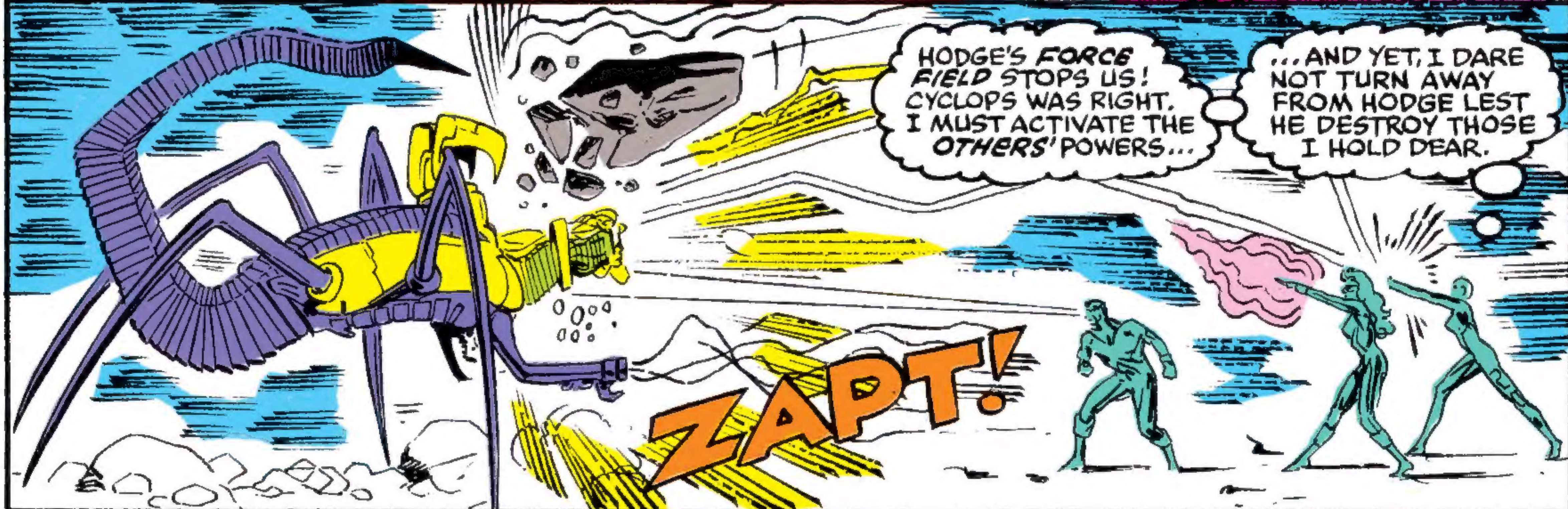
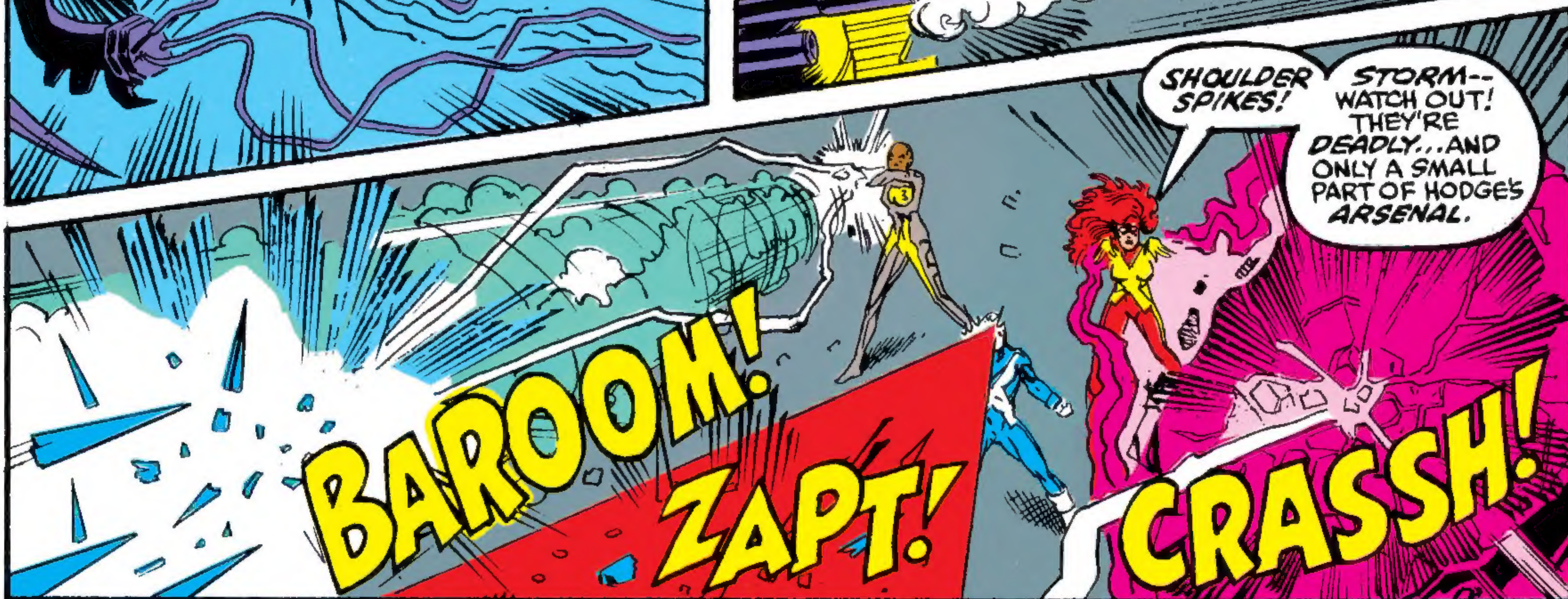
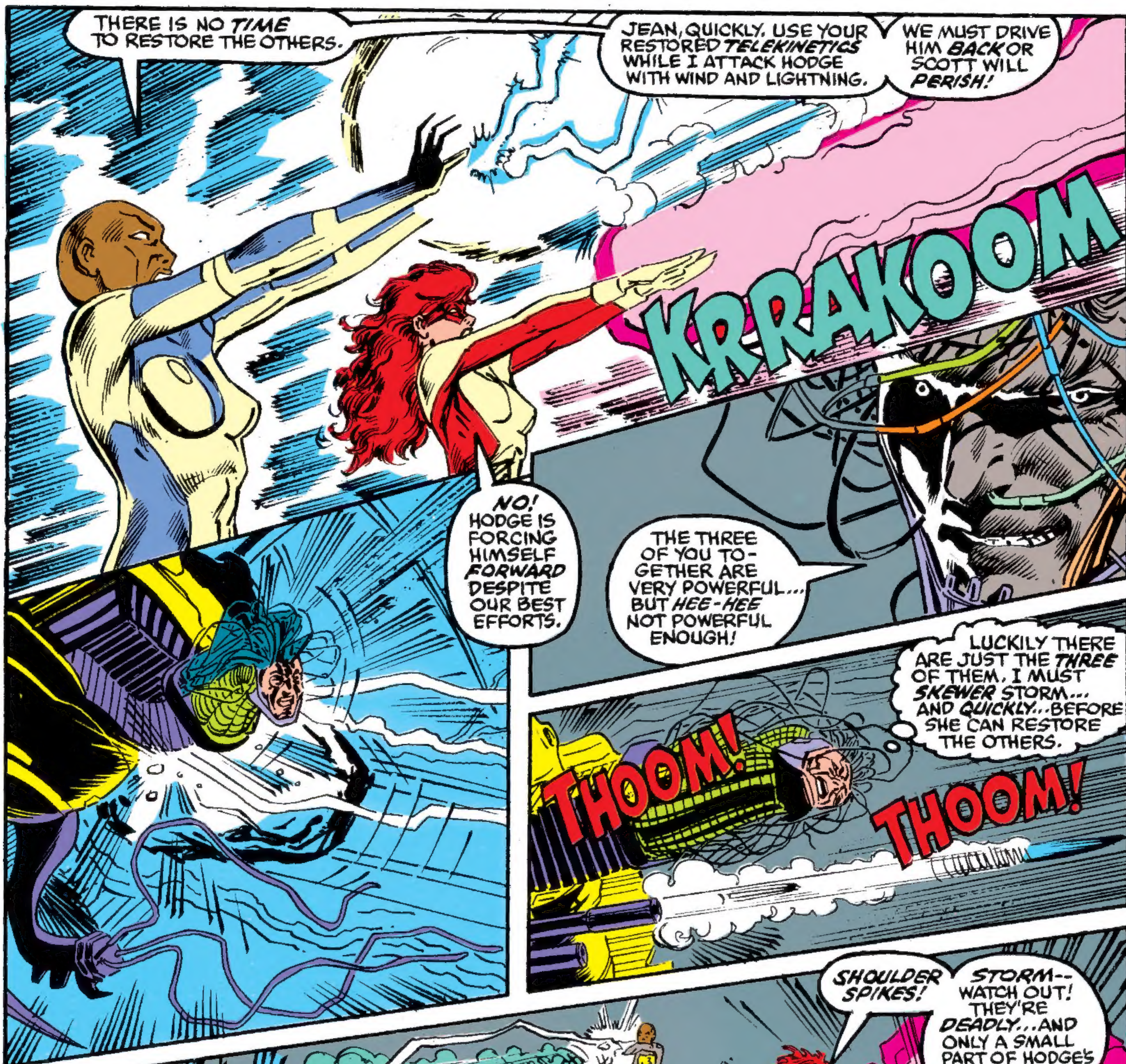
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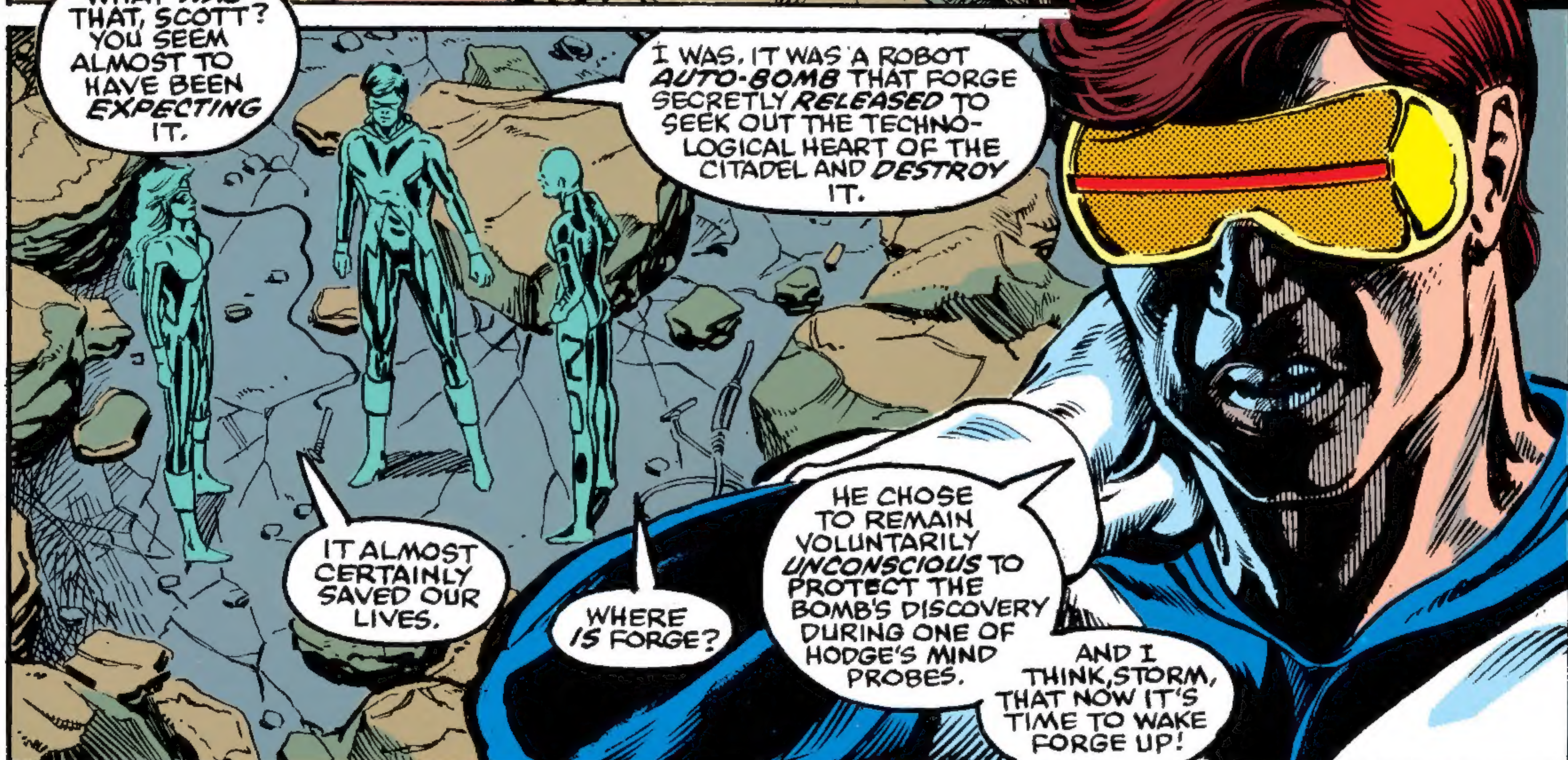
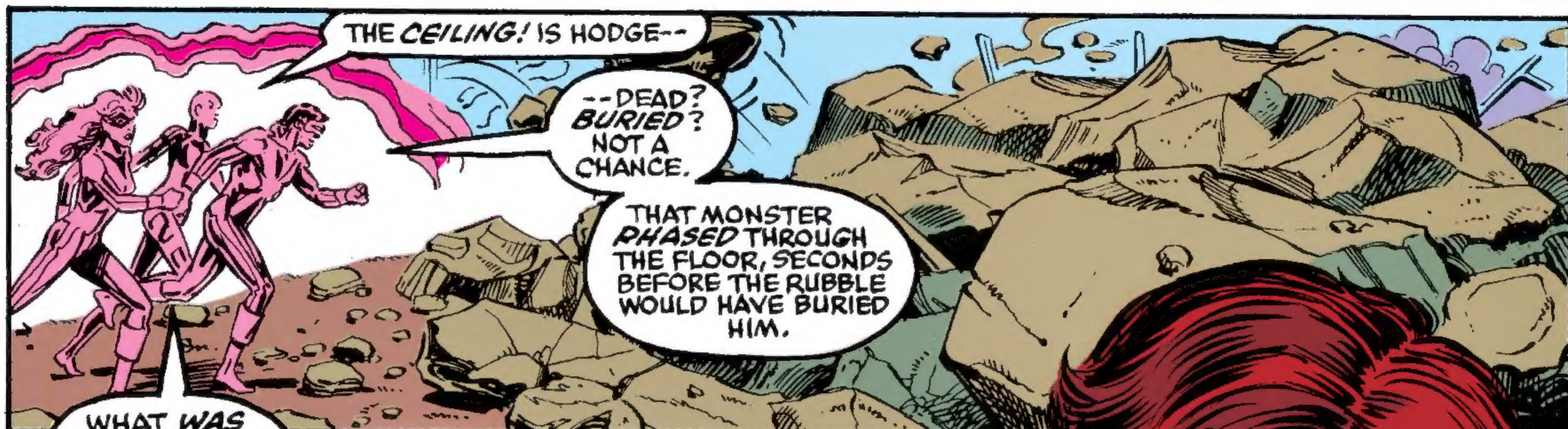
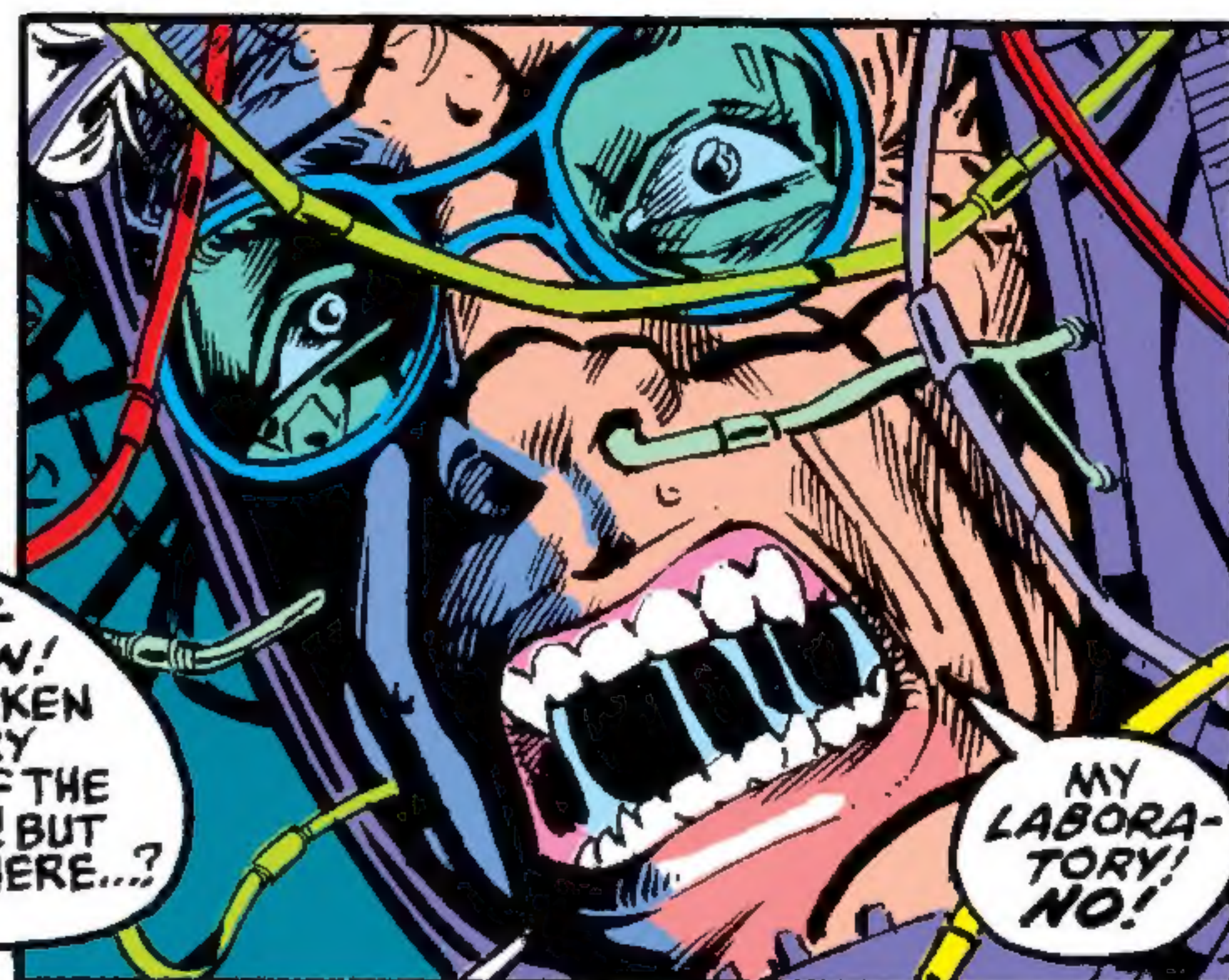
STEVE BUCCELLATO
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BOB HARRAS
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TOM DEFALCO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF







MINUTES EARLIER, THE MUTANTS BOOM-BOOM, JUBILEE, AND RICTOR FOLLOW THE GENEGINEER AND HIS MUTATE GARDENER...

A LITTLE FARTHER, NUMBER 360, AND WE WILL HAVE REACHED OUR GOAL.

AND YOU WERE WORRIED ABOUT HOW WE'D SNEAK BACK INTO THE CITADEL, JUBE!

YEAH, BOOM-BOOM, PIECE O' CAKE. ONCE THE MUTATE'S TUNNEL REACHES THE CITADEL...

THEN I'M GONNA SHAKE THIS ISLAND APART, PIECE BY PIECE, 'TIL RAHNE... AND THE OTHERS... ARE RELEASED... AND RESTORED.

...ALL WE HAFTA DO IS GO INSIDE, FIND WIPEOUT, AND MAKE HIM RESTORE YOUR POWERS.

WHAT I DON'T GET IS WHY THE GENEGINEER IS DOING THIS? I THOUGHT HE PRETTY MUCH RAN THE CITADEL.

LIKE STATE THE OBVIOUS, JUBILEE, WHY DONCHA? I WONDER WHAT CAUSED IT, RIC?

MUTATE MUST HAVE BURNED THROUGH THE POWER WIRES. THE BLAST KILLED HIM.

GENEGINEER'S STILL ALIVE, THOUGH.

BA-BOOMM!!

WHO CARES WHY, AS LONG AS-- HE'S THROUGH!

SUDDENLY, THE DETONATION THAT SHAKES THEIR TEAMMATES ABOVE HURLS THESE YOUNGSTERS TO THEIR KNEES...

AN EXPLOSION!

WOULD YOU JUST LOOK AT THIS PLACE! WHERE THE HECK DO YOU SUPPOSE WE ARE?

I DUNNO, IT'S LINED WITH VIDEO SCREENS... A MEDIA JUNKIE'S PARADISE!

SHHHH. SOMEONE'S COMING.

DRAW THE GENEGINEER OUT OF SIGHT BEHIND THE COUNTER, AND LIKE HURRY UP, OKAY?

AND FROM THE DOORWAY THE COMMANDER SURVEYS THE ROOM, HIS FACE A MASK OF HORROR AND FURY...

IT'S HODGE!
WE'RE IN HIS LAIR!

OH SPIT!
PLEASE DON'T
LET HIM FIND US!
PLEASE... I'LL
DO ANYTHING,
ONLY... PLEEEEEEASE...

HE'S UGLY,
YEAH, AN' HE'S BIG
AND MORE POWERFUL
THAN ALL OF US PUT
TOGETHER, BUT WHAT
ELSE HAS HE GOT
GOIN' FOR HIM...?

WHAT'S
THIS?

THE REMNANTS OF A
TRACKER BOMB--
ONE OF FORGE'S
DESIGNS, I'LL
WAGER!

IT HAS
DESTROYED
MUCH... BUT
MY COMPUT-
ER'S MAIN
FRAME IS
STILL OPERA-
TIVE.

IT SUC-
CEEDED AT
ITS TASK...
AND YET IT
FAILED MOST
MISERABLY!

...AND
THAT WILL
GIVE ME ALL
THE INFORMAT-
ION AND POWER
THAT I NEED
TO WIN THIS
LITTLE WAR!

I WILL FIND
THOSE RESPONS-
IBLE FOR THIS
DESTRUCTION
AND DESTROY
THEM. EVERY
MUTANT ON
THIS ISLAND.

KRASH

KLANG

EVERY
SINGLE
MUTANT
IN THE
WORLD!

AT LEAST
HE'S GONE
NOW.

HEY,
WHAT'S
THIS...?
IT'S GOT
WARLOCK'S
NAME ON IT...

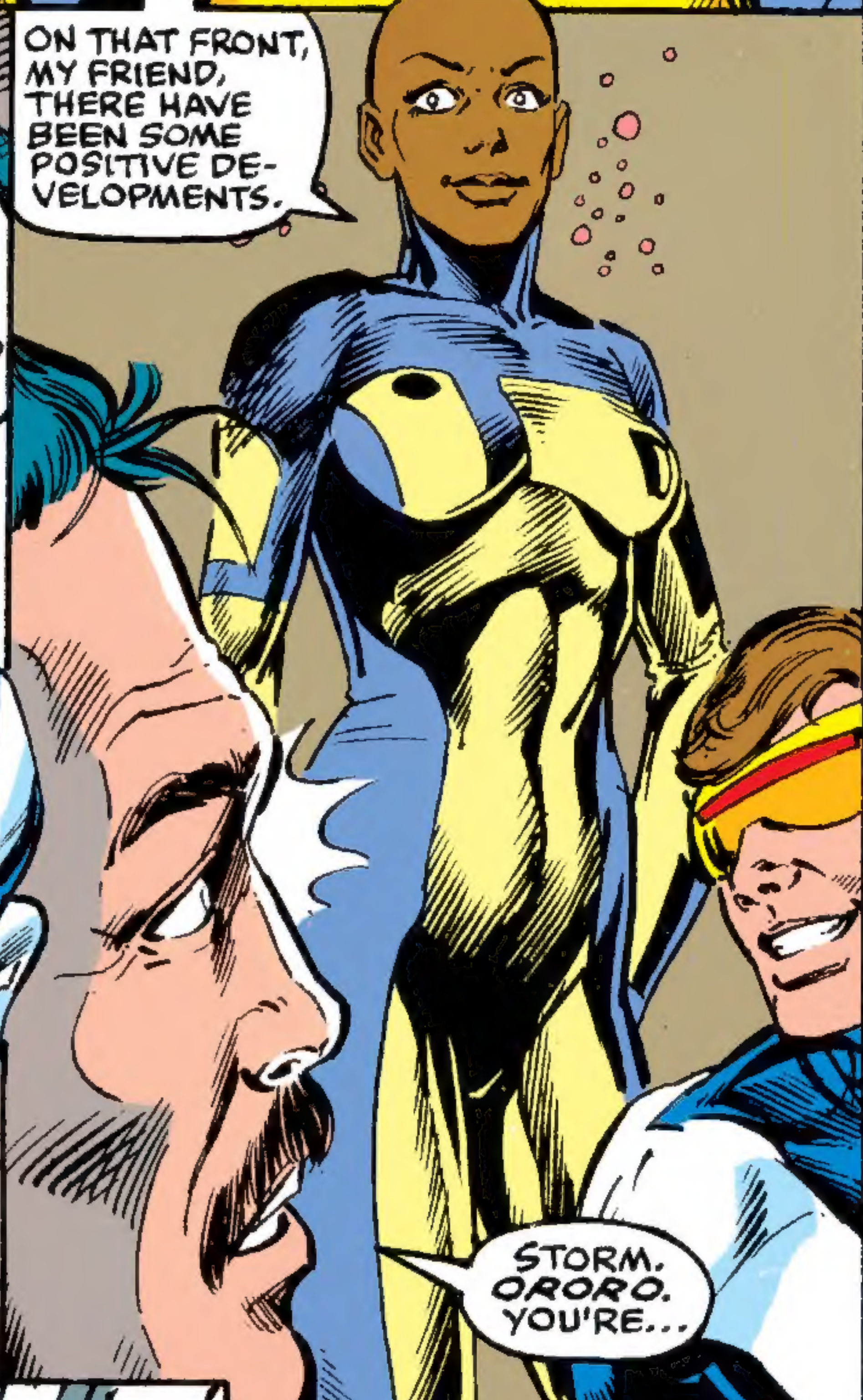
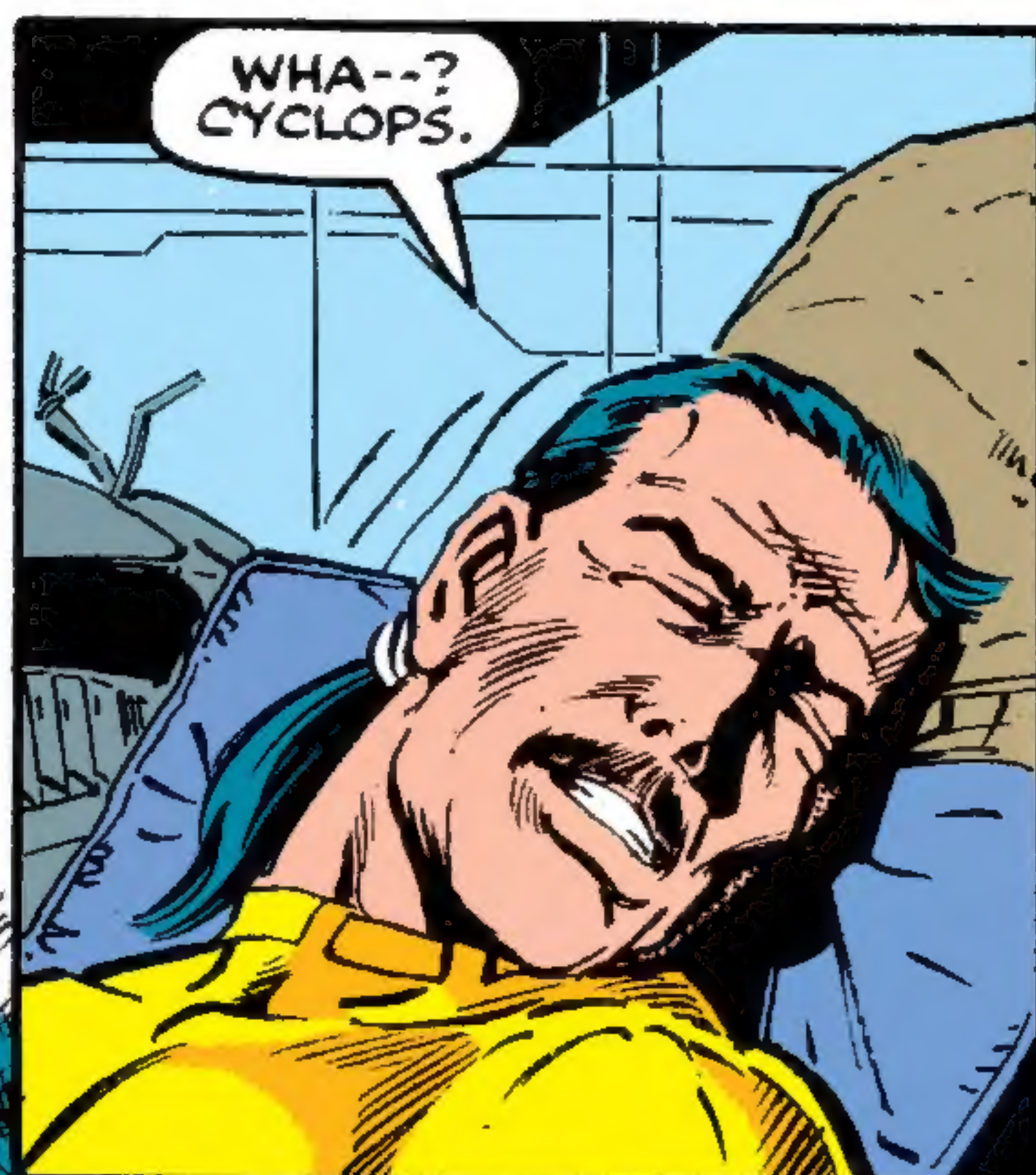
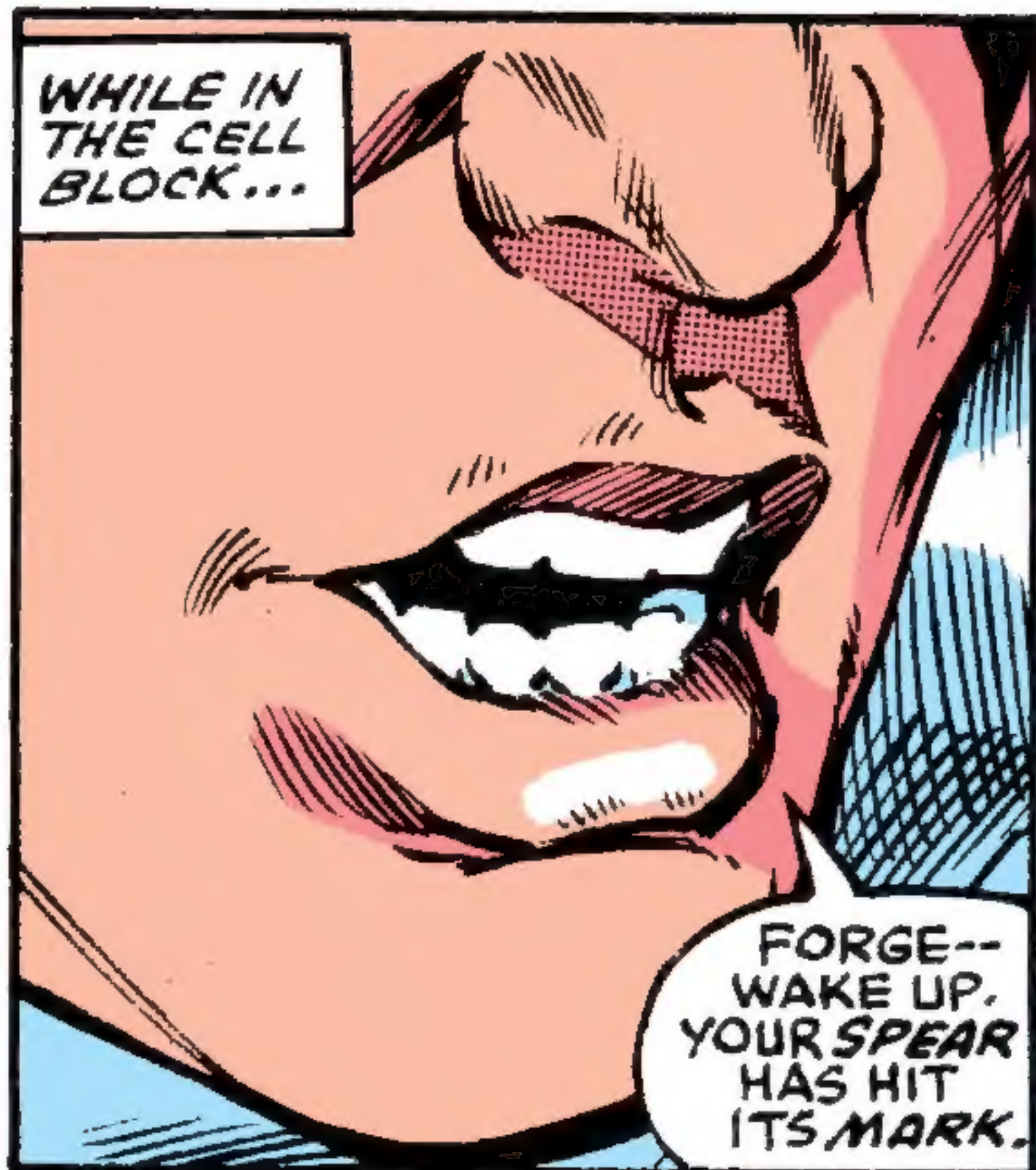
IT IS
WARLOCK!

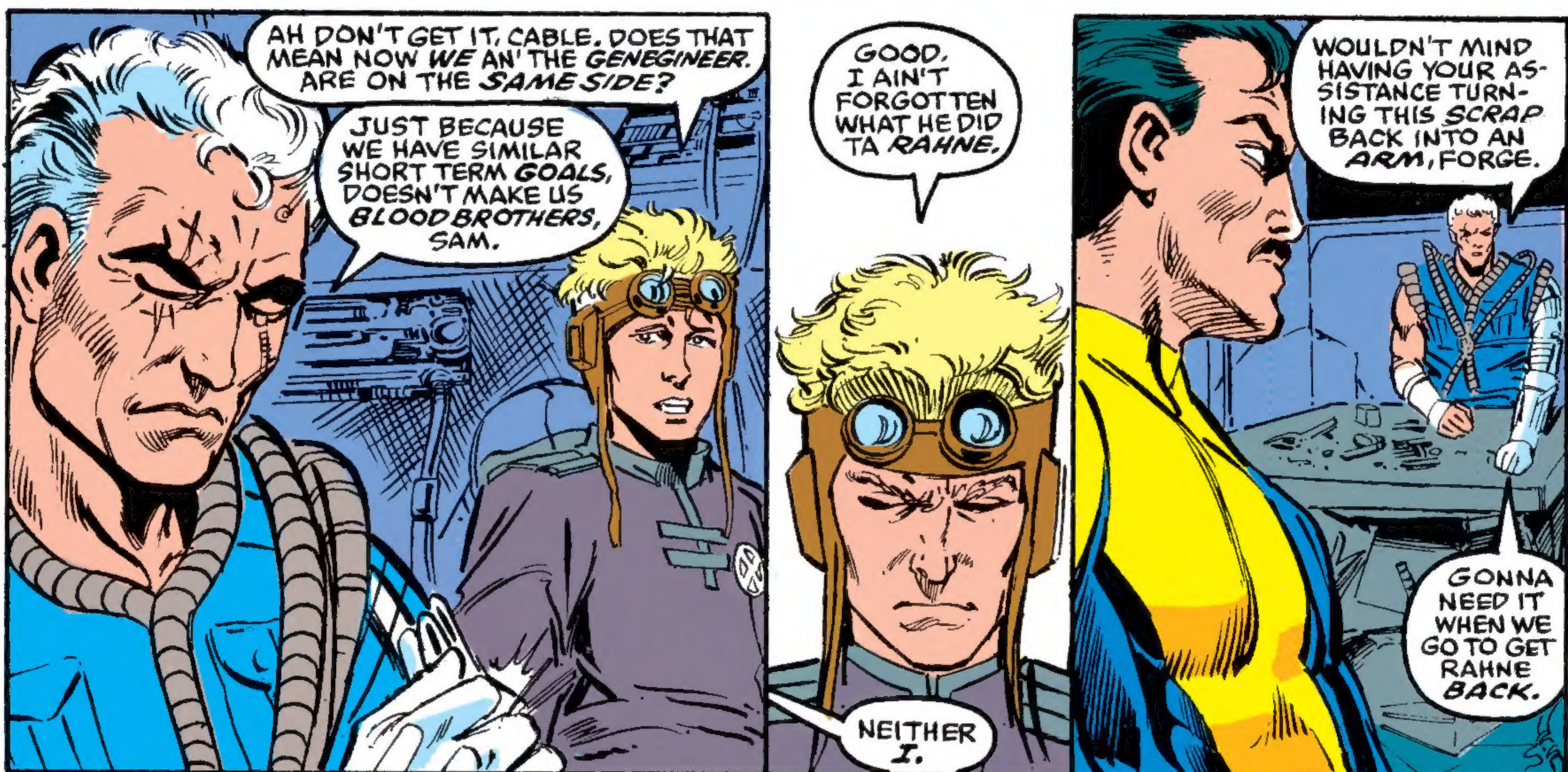
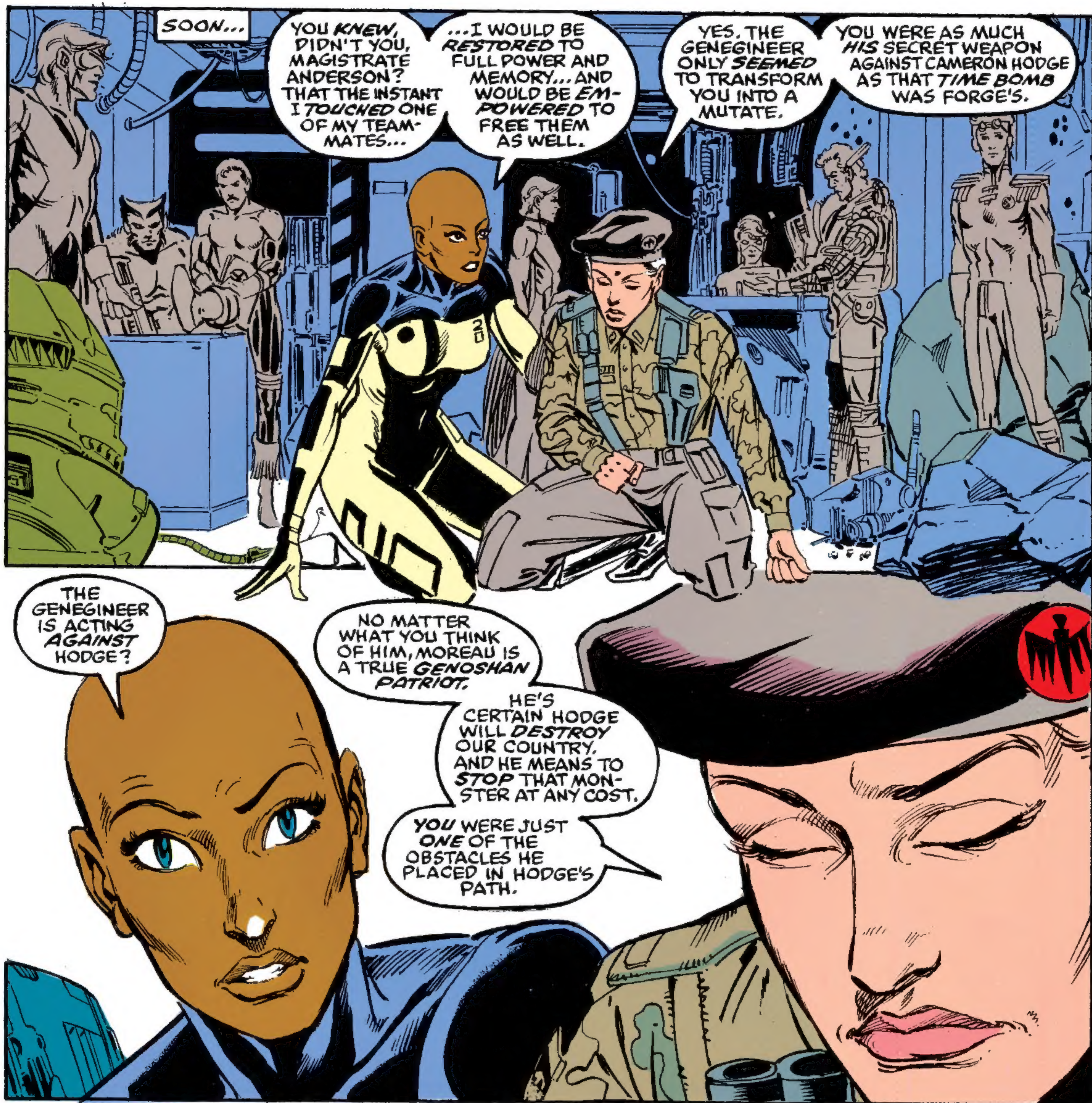
ALL
THAT'S
LEFT
OF HIM.

ALL RIGHT,
GENENGINEER!
I'VE HAD IT...
WITH YOU
AND HODGE
AND EVERY
GENOSHAN
ON THIS
ISLAND!

TAKE US TO
WIPEOUT.
HE'S GONNA
GIVE ME BACK
MY POWERS...

...AND I'M
GOING TO USE
IT TO FREE OUR
PEOPLE AND SHAKE
HODGE INTO SCRAP
METAL!





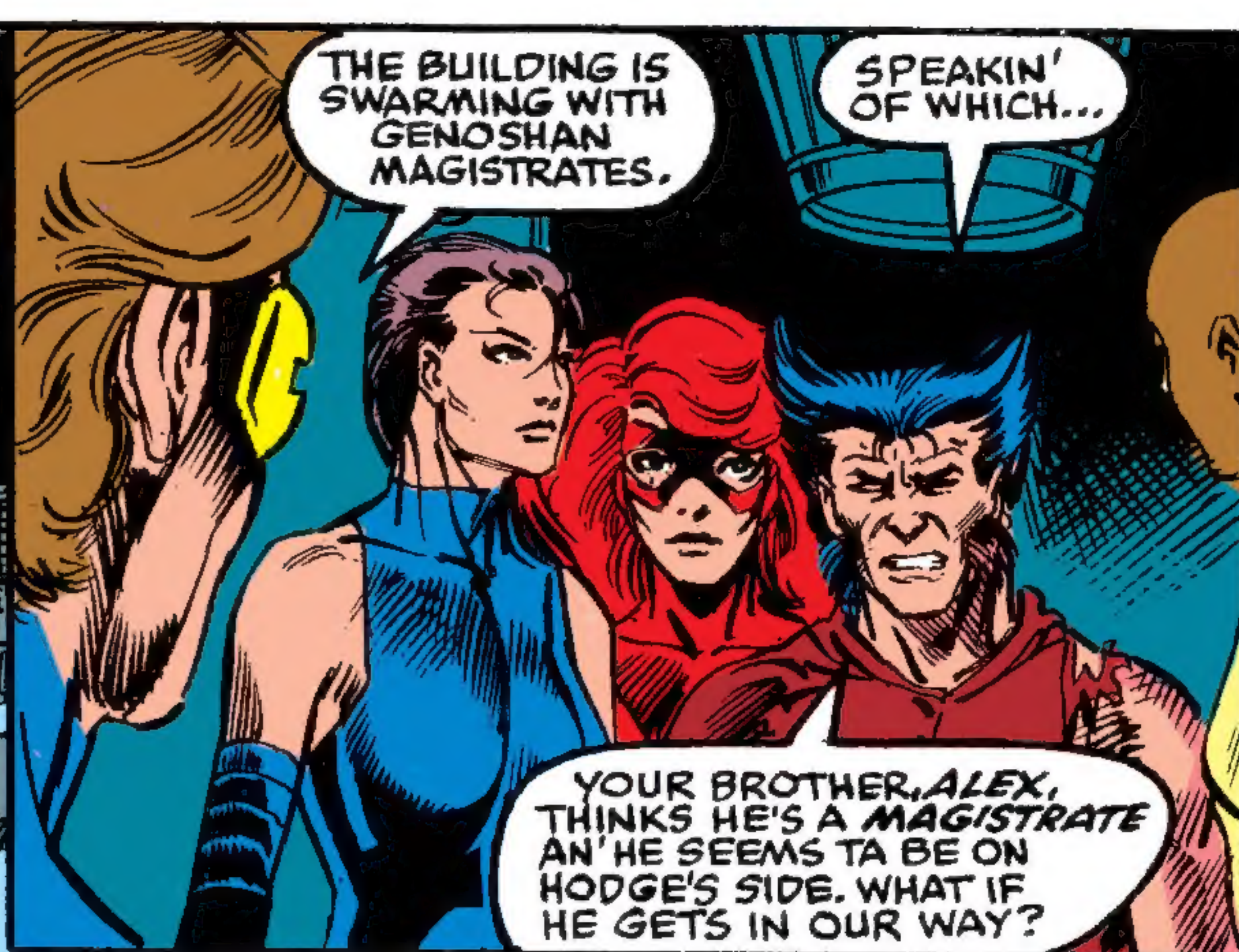


LATER...

CABLE--YOU, STORM, CANNONBALL, AND SUN-SPOT LOCATE AND RESCUE RAHNE, THEN JOIN THE REST OF US IN OUR PURSUIT OF HODGE.

WE'LL SPLIT UP, SEARCH FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE CITADEL UP...

MAINTAIN RADIO SILENCE AS LONG AS POSSIBLE, AND TAKE CARE. HODGE ISN'T OUR ONLY ENEMY.



THE BUILDING IS SWARMING WITH GENOSHAN MAGISTRATES.

SPEAKIN' OF WHICH...

YOUR BROTHER, ALEX, THINKS HE'S A MAGISTRATE AN' HE SEEMS TA BE ON HODGE'S SIDE. WHAT IF HE GETS IN OUR WAY?



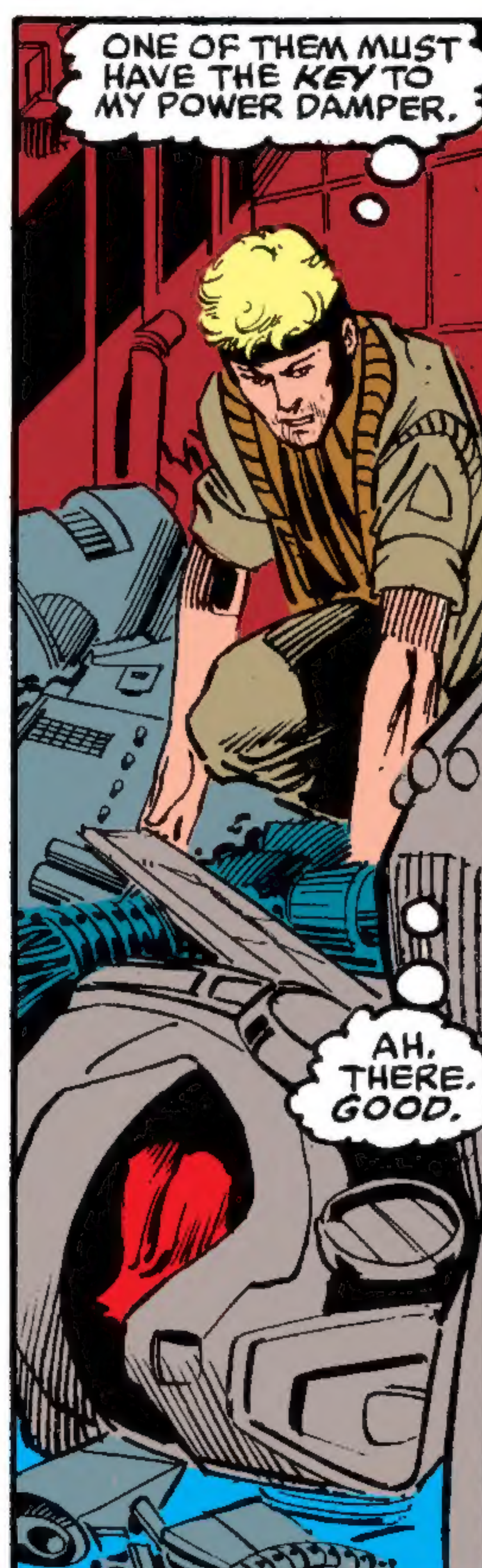
TRY TO REASON WITH HIM...OR INCAPACITATE HIM. OR GO THROUGH HIM. WHATEVER IT TAKES TO GET TO HODGE.



OTHER PORTIONS OF THE CITADEL WERE ALSO DESTROYED BY THE BLAST.

AND ON A LOWER LEVEL, CYCLOPS'S BROTHER ALEX STUMBLES FROM THE RUBBLE OF A COLLAPSED CELL BLOCK...

EXPLOSION KILLED THE GUARDS, NEARLY KILLED ME.



ONE OF THEM MUST HAVE THE KEY TO MY POWER DAMPER.

AH, THERE, GOOD.



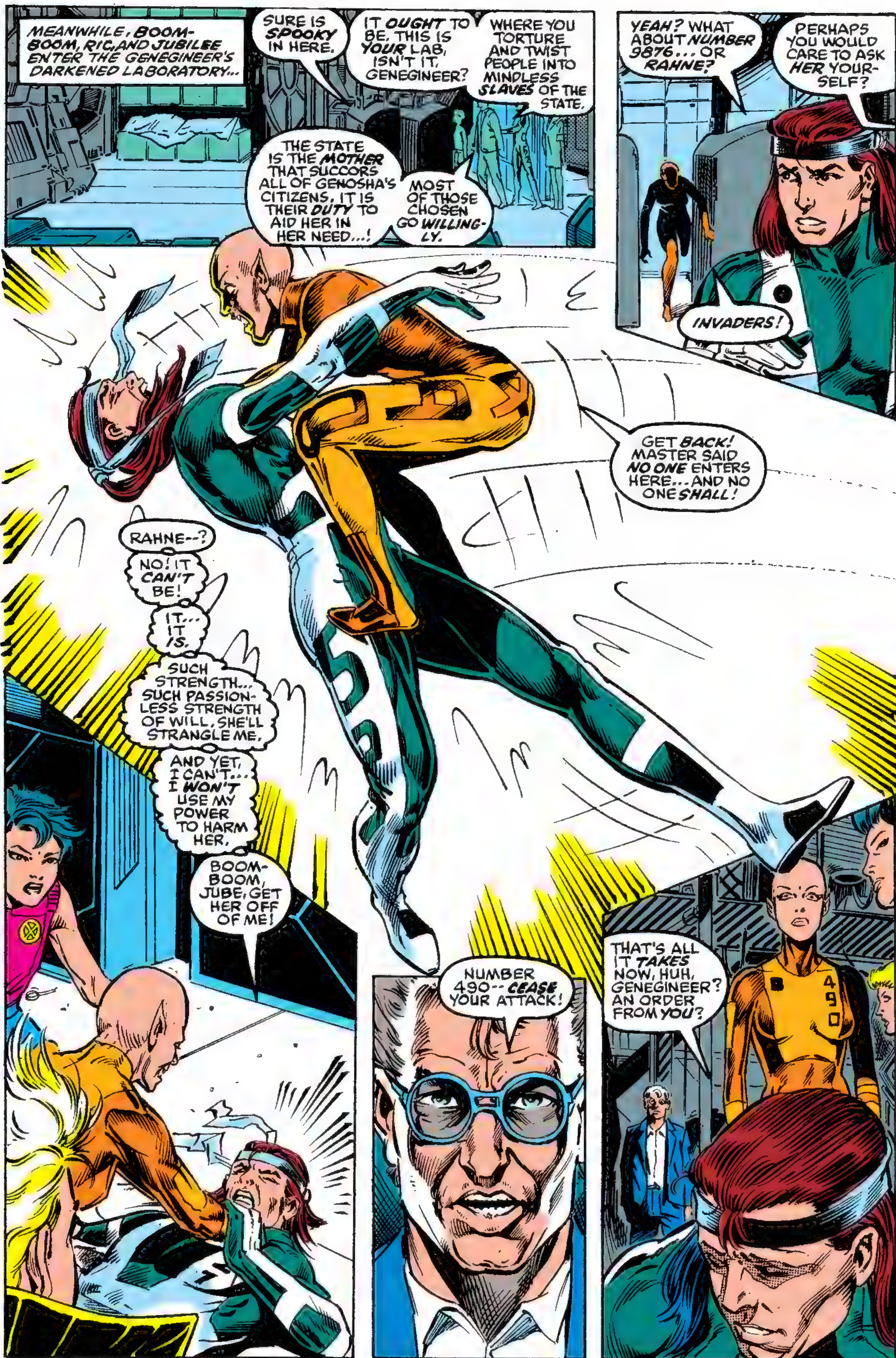
THAT I APPARENTLY BETRAYED MY BROTHER TO HODGE DIDN'T KEEP HODGE FROM FRAMING ME.



THERE'S NO WAY SCOTT CAN KNOW THE TRUTH. HE MUST BELIEVE I'M STILL THE VICTIM OF GENOSHAN BRAIN WASHING...

...AND THAT I'M ON HODGE'S SIDE, BUT I'M NOT. FINALLY I'M FREE...AND FULLY MYSELF.

AND I'LL TURN MY PLASMA EFFECT ON HODGE WITH SUCH FURY I'LL MELT HIM INTO SLAG.



MEANWHILE, BOOM-BOOM, RIC, AND JUBILEE ENTER THE GENEGINEER'S DARKENED LABORATORY...

SURE IS SPOOKY IN HERE.

IT OUGHT TO BE. THIS IS YOUR LAB, ISN'T IT, GENEGINEER?

WHERE YOU TORTURE AND TWIST PEOPLE INTO MINDLESS SLAVES OF THE STATE.

THE STATE IS THE MOTHER THAT SUCCORS ALL OF GENOSHA'S CITIZENS. IT IS THEIR DUTY TO AID HER IN HER NEED....!

MOST OF THOSE CHOSEN GO WILLINGLY.

YEAH? WHAT ABOUT NUMBER 9876... OR RAHNE?

PERHAPS YOU WOULD CARE TO ASK HER YOURSELF?

INVADERS!

GET BACK! MASTER SAID NO ONE ENTERS HERE... AND NO ONE SHALL!

RAHNE--?

NO! IT CAN'T BE!

IT... IT IS.

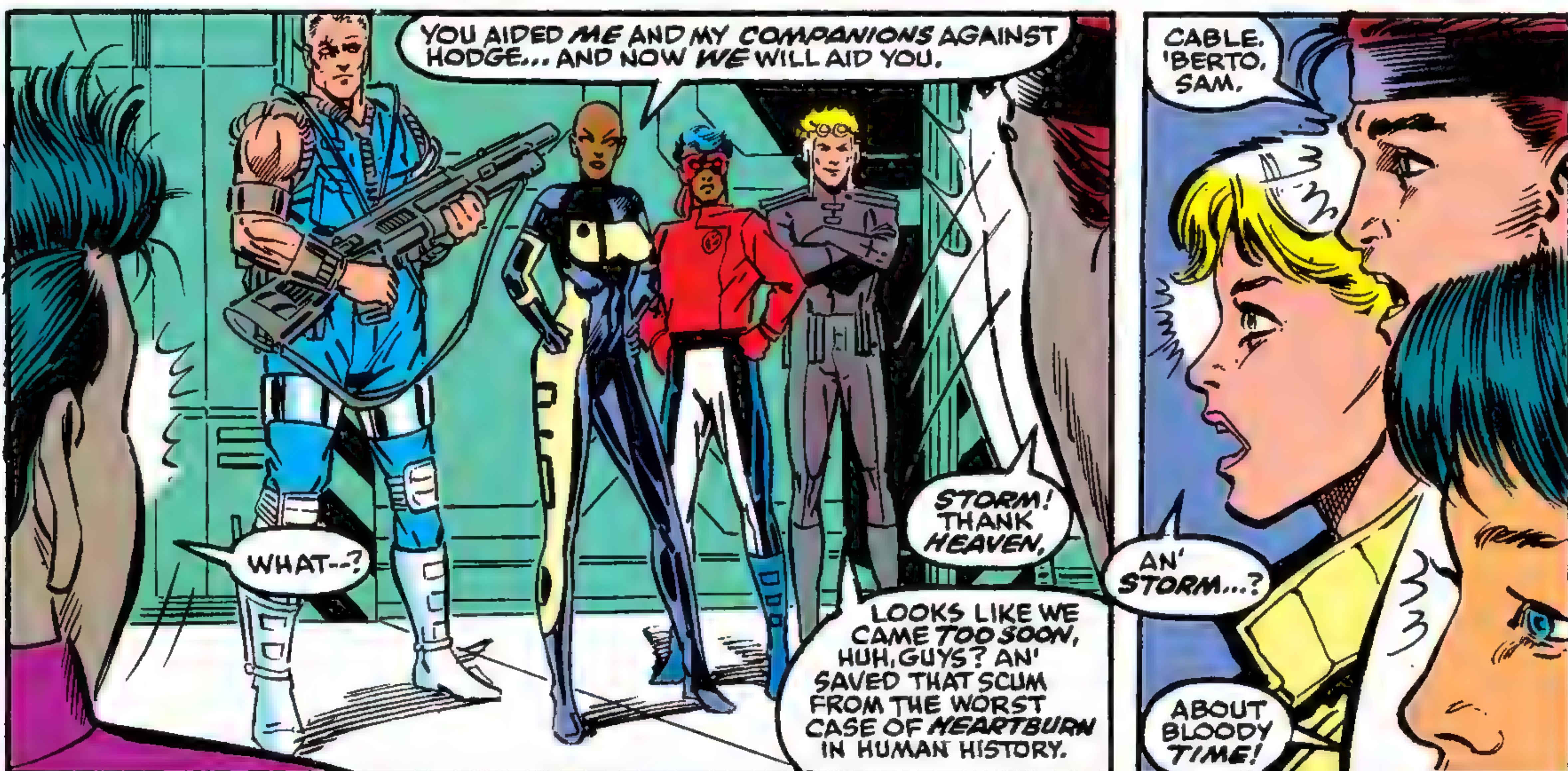
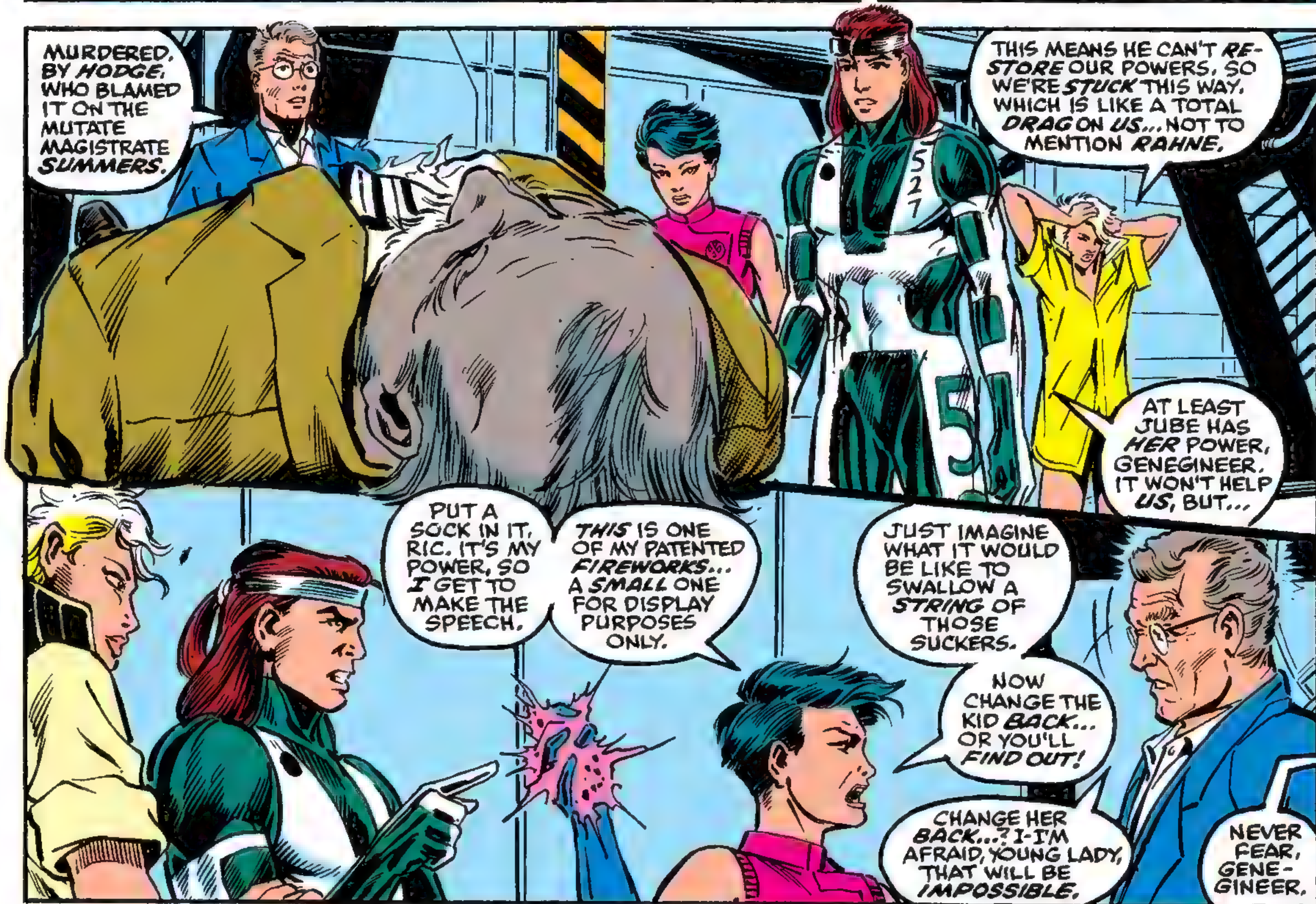
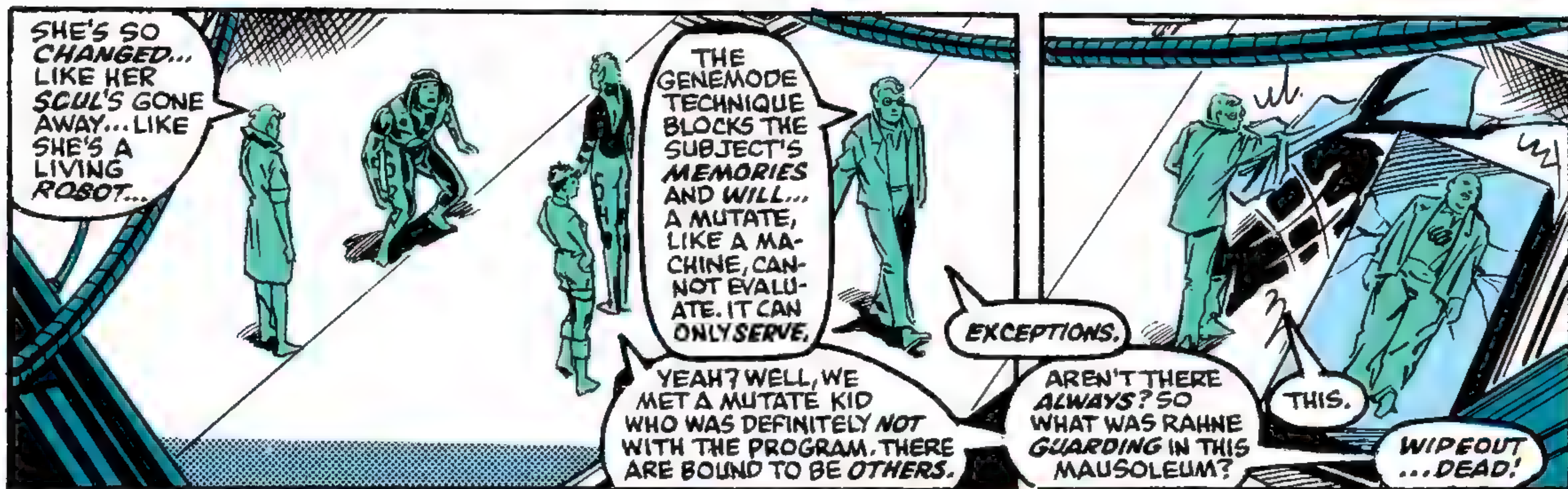
SUCH STRENGTH... SUCH PASSIONLESS STRENGTH OF WILL, SHE'LL STRANGLE ME.

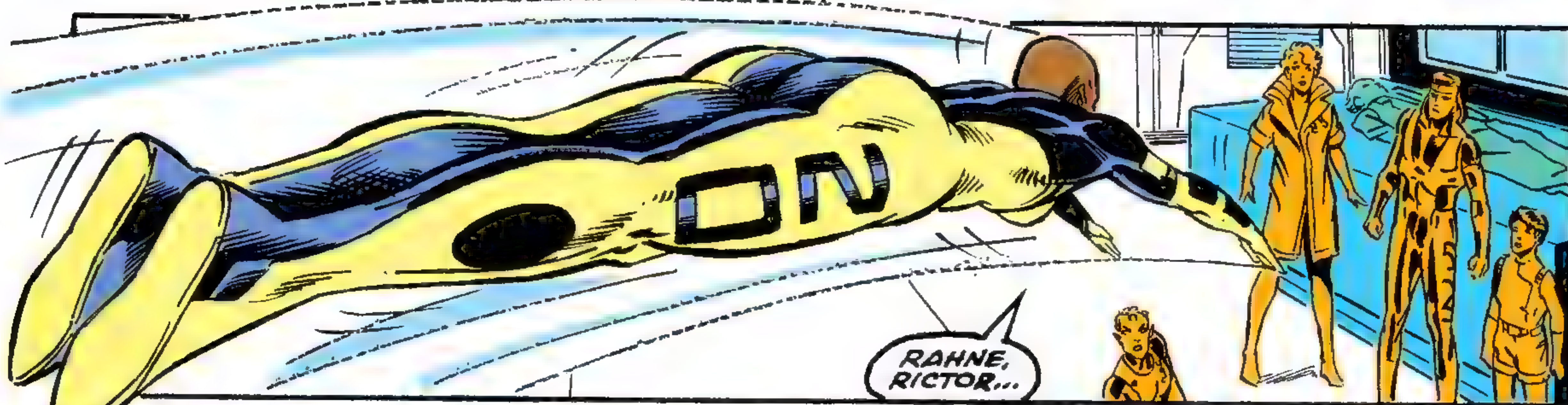
AND YET, I CAN'T... I WON'T USE MY POWER TO HARM HER.

BOOM-BOOM, JUBE, GET HER OFF OF ME!

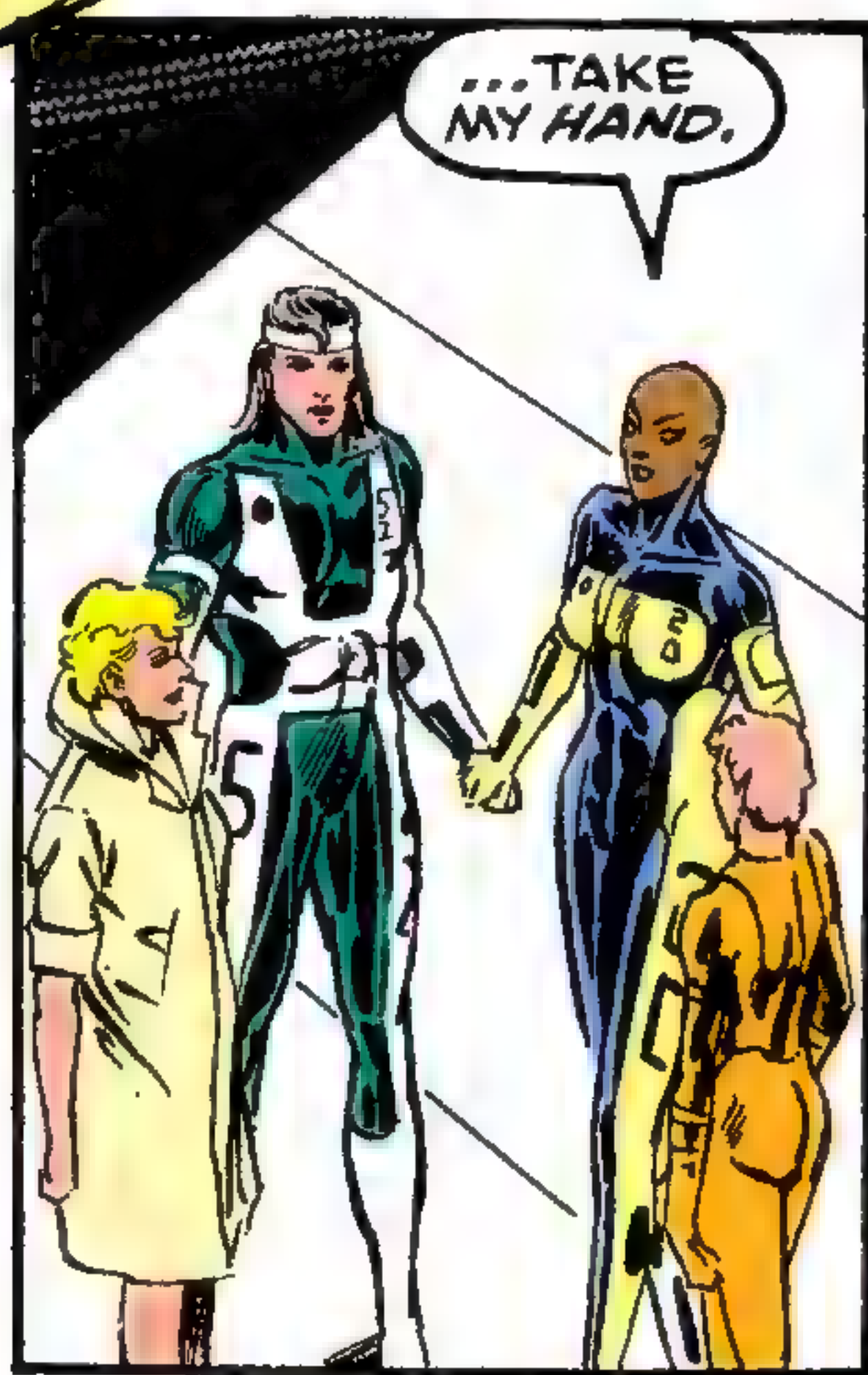
NUMBER 490-- CEASE YOUR ATTACK!

THAT'S ALL IT TAKES NOW, HUH, GENEGINEER? AN ORDER FROM YOU?





RAHNE, RICTOR...



...TAKE MY HAND.



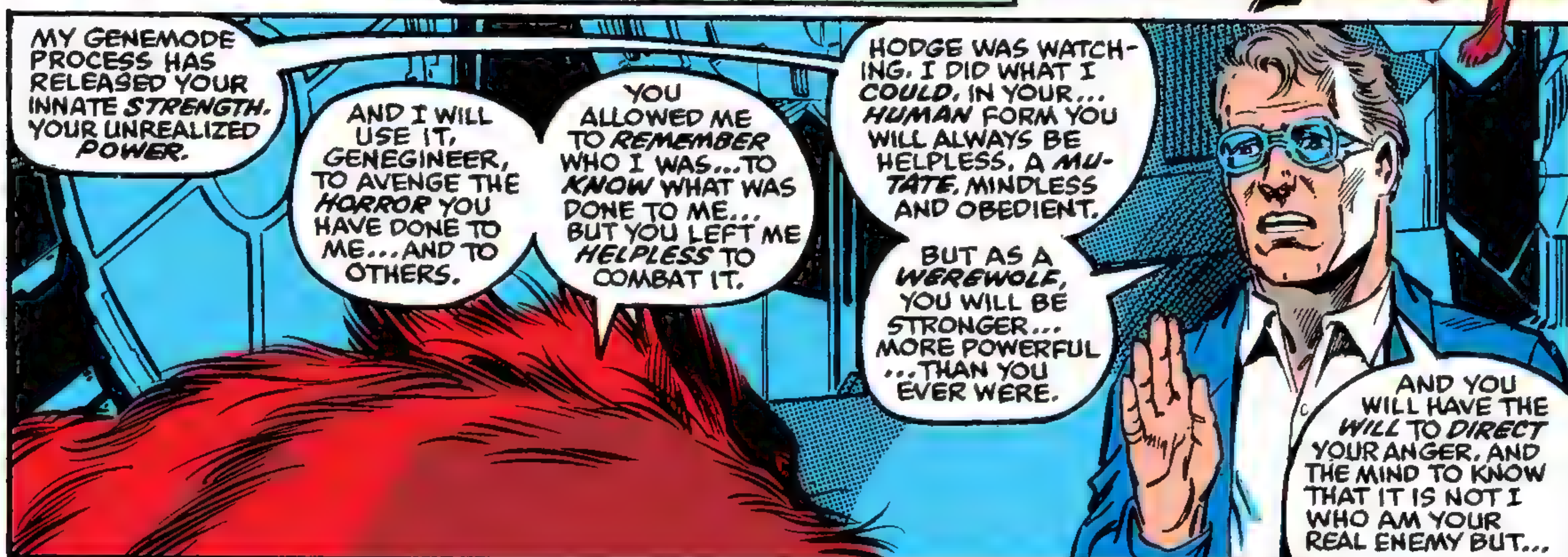
AND IN A FLASH OF LIGHTNING, A CRACK OF THUNDER, RICTOR'S SEISMIC POWER IS RESTORED.

BUT UPON RESTORATION OF HER LYCANTHROPIC POWER, RAHNE UNDERGOES AN UNEXPECTED AND TERRIFYING TRANSFORMATION...



'TIS A MIRACLE. IN THIS FORM I CAN THINK AGAIN. CAN REACT... NA' JUST RECORD.

MY BODY...AS WOLF-GIRL... 'TIS DIFFERENT, I'M LARGER...



MY GENEMODE PROCESS HAS RELEASED YOUR INNATE STRENGTH. YOUR UNREALIZED POWER.

AND I WILL USE IT, GENENGINEER, TO AVENGE THE HORROR YOU HAVE DONE TO ME...AND TO OTHERS.

YOU ALLOWED ME TO REMEMBER WHO I WAS...TO KNOW WHAT WAS DONE TO ME... BUT YOU LEFT ME HELPLESS TO COMBAT IT.

HODGE WAS WATCHING. I DID WHAT I COULD, IN YOUR... HUMAN FORM YOU WILL ALWAYS BE HELPLESS, A MUTATE, MINDLESS AND OBEDIENT.

BUT AS A WEREWOLF, YOU WILL BE STRONGER... MORE POWERFUL... THAN YOU EVER WERE.

AND YOU WILL HAVE THE WILL TO DIRECT YOUR ANGER, AND THE MIND TO KNOW THAT IT IS NOT I WHO AM YOUR REAL ENEMY BUT...



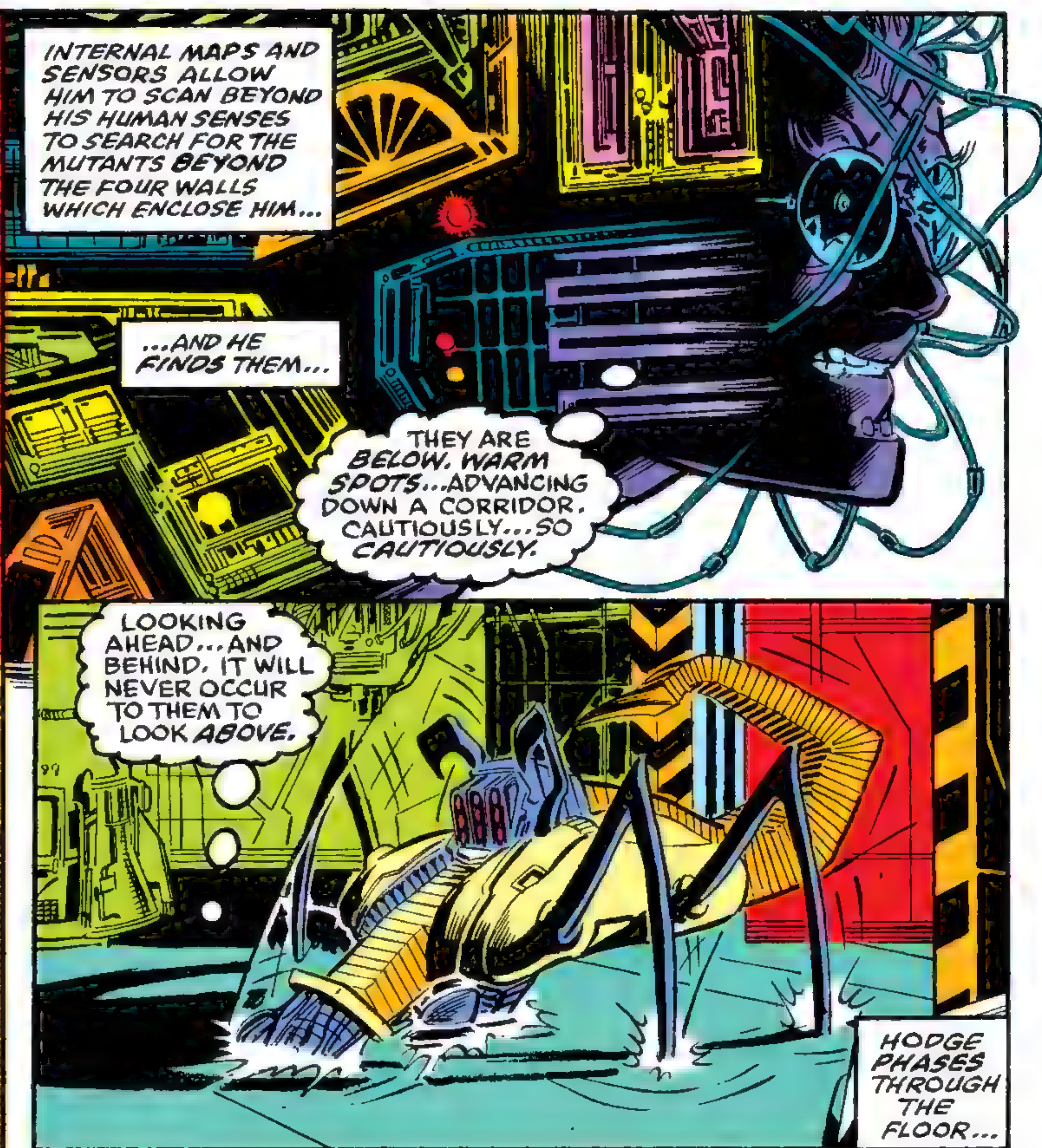
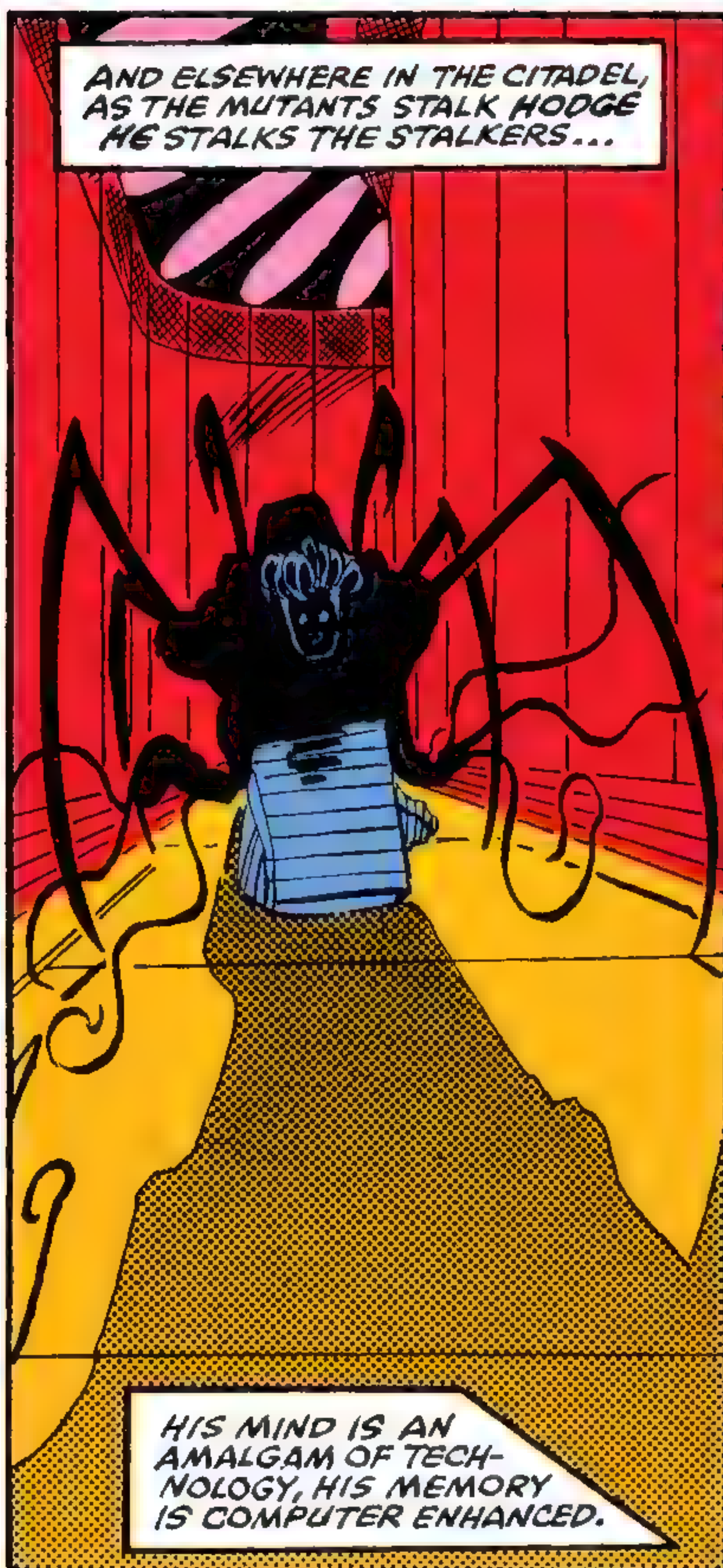
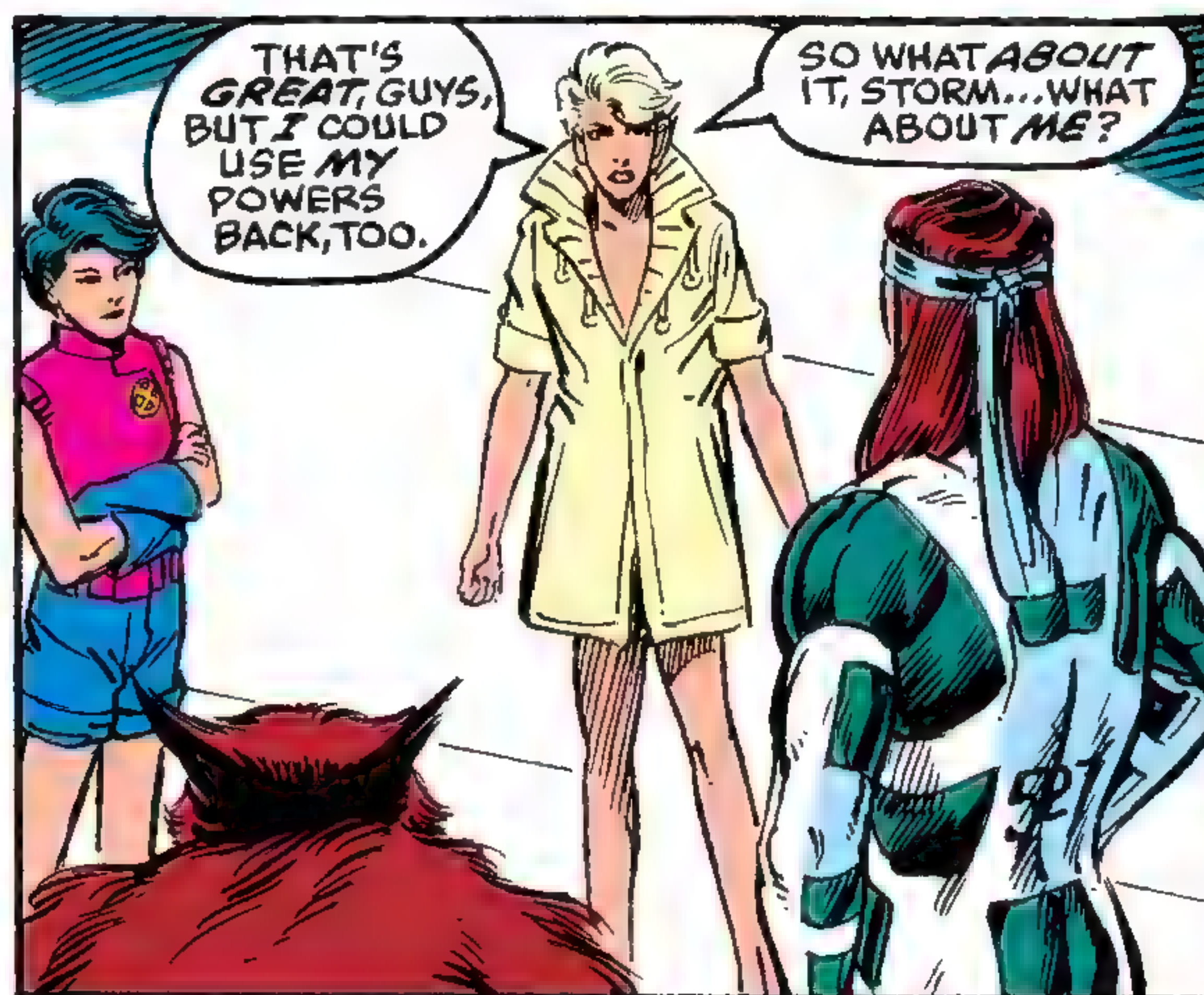
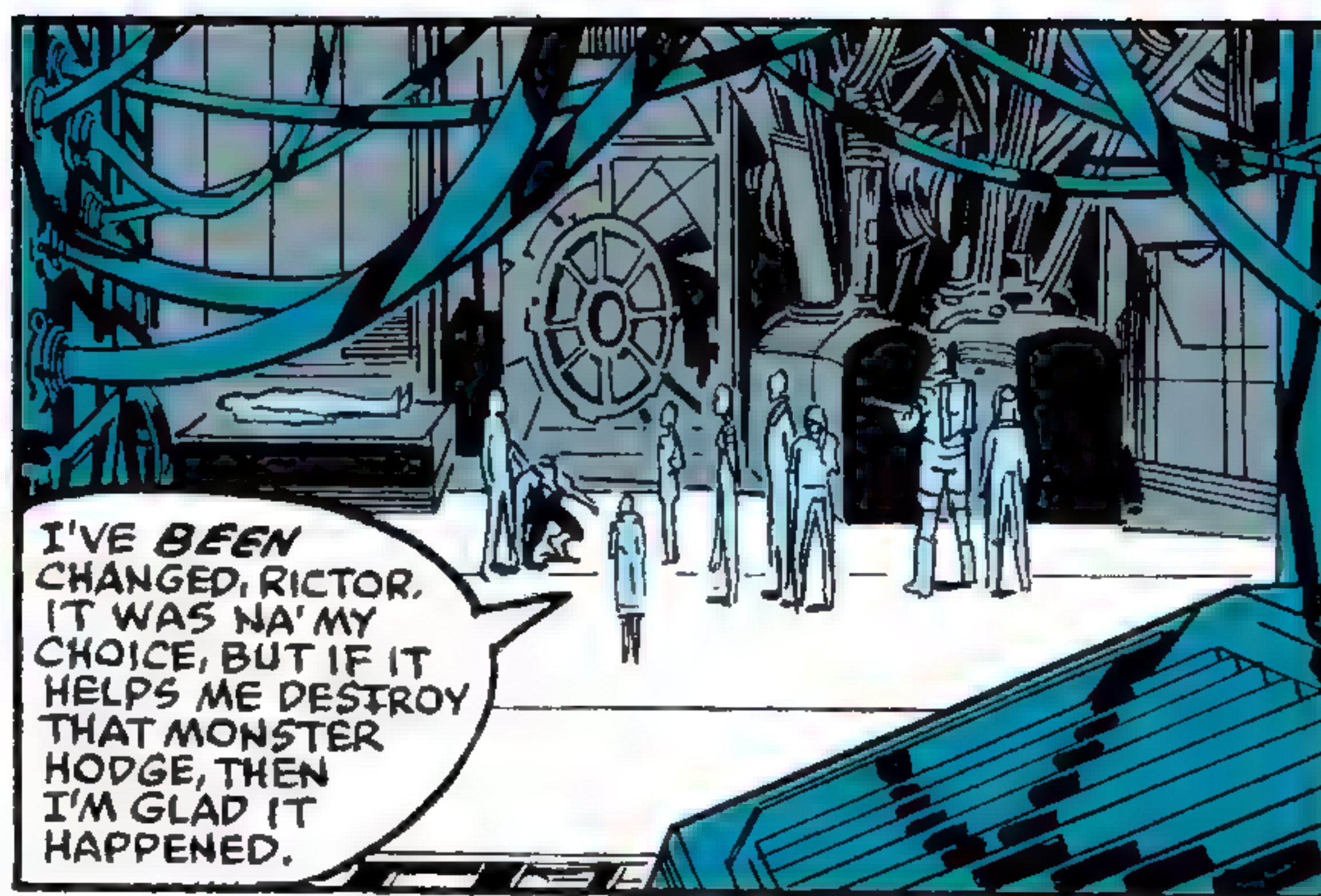
CAMERON HODGE.

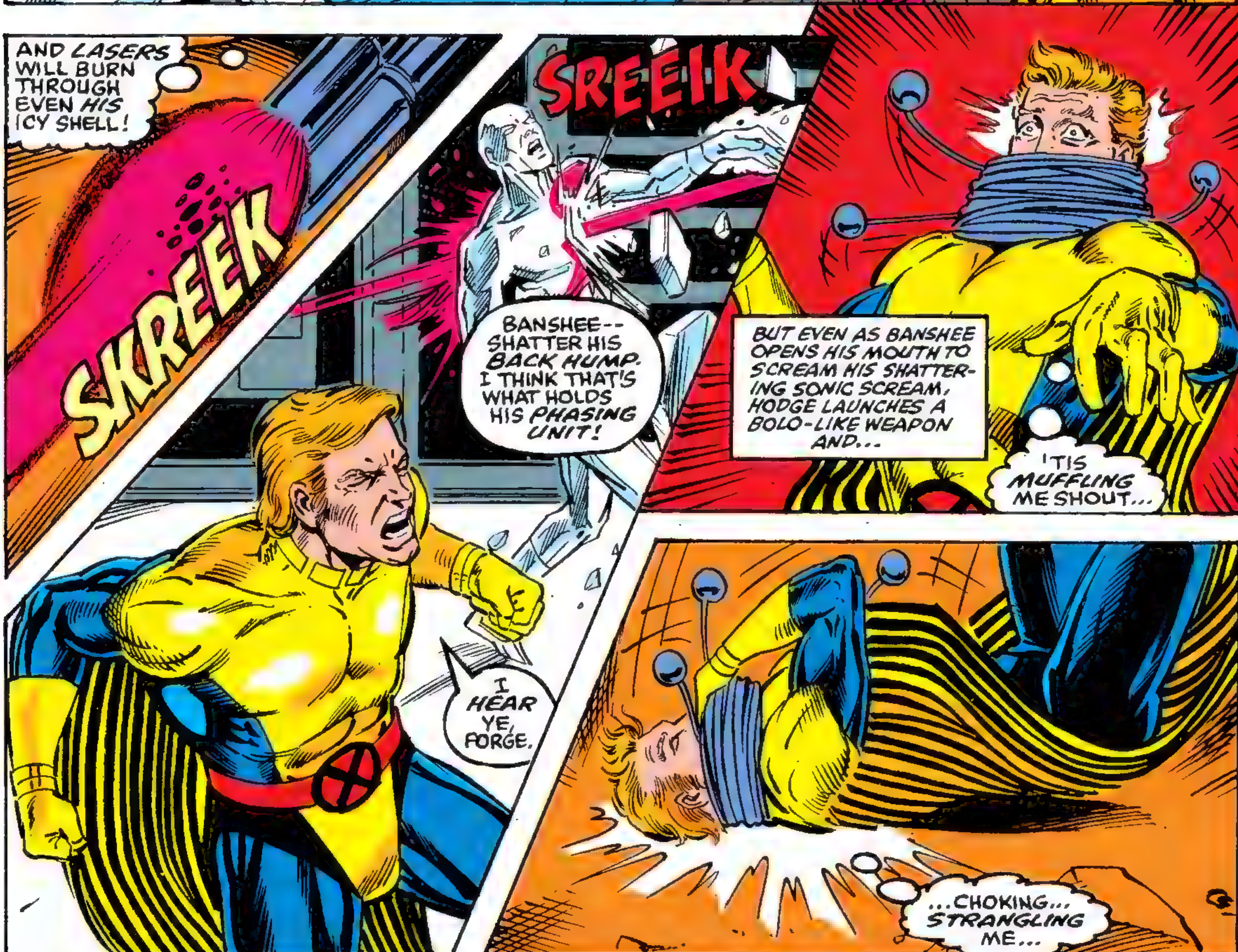
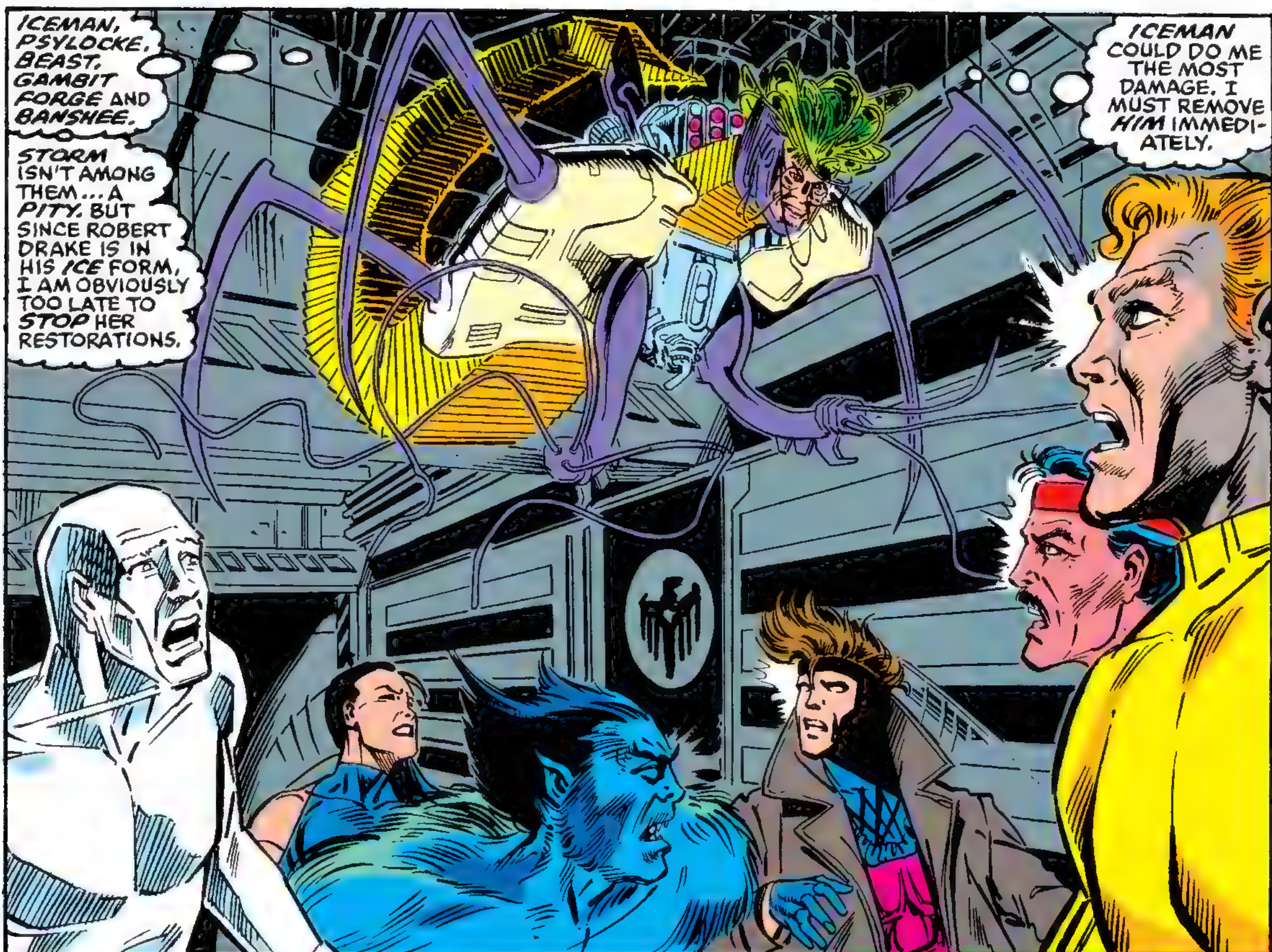
HE ORDERED ME TO SEE THAT YOU REMEMBERED. I CHOSE WHAT PART OF YOU WOULD DO SO. I EVEN WARNED HIM, REMEMBER?

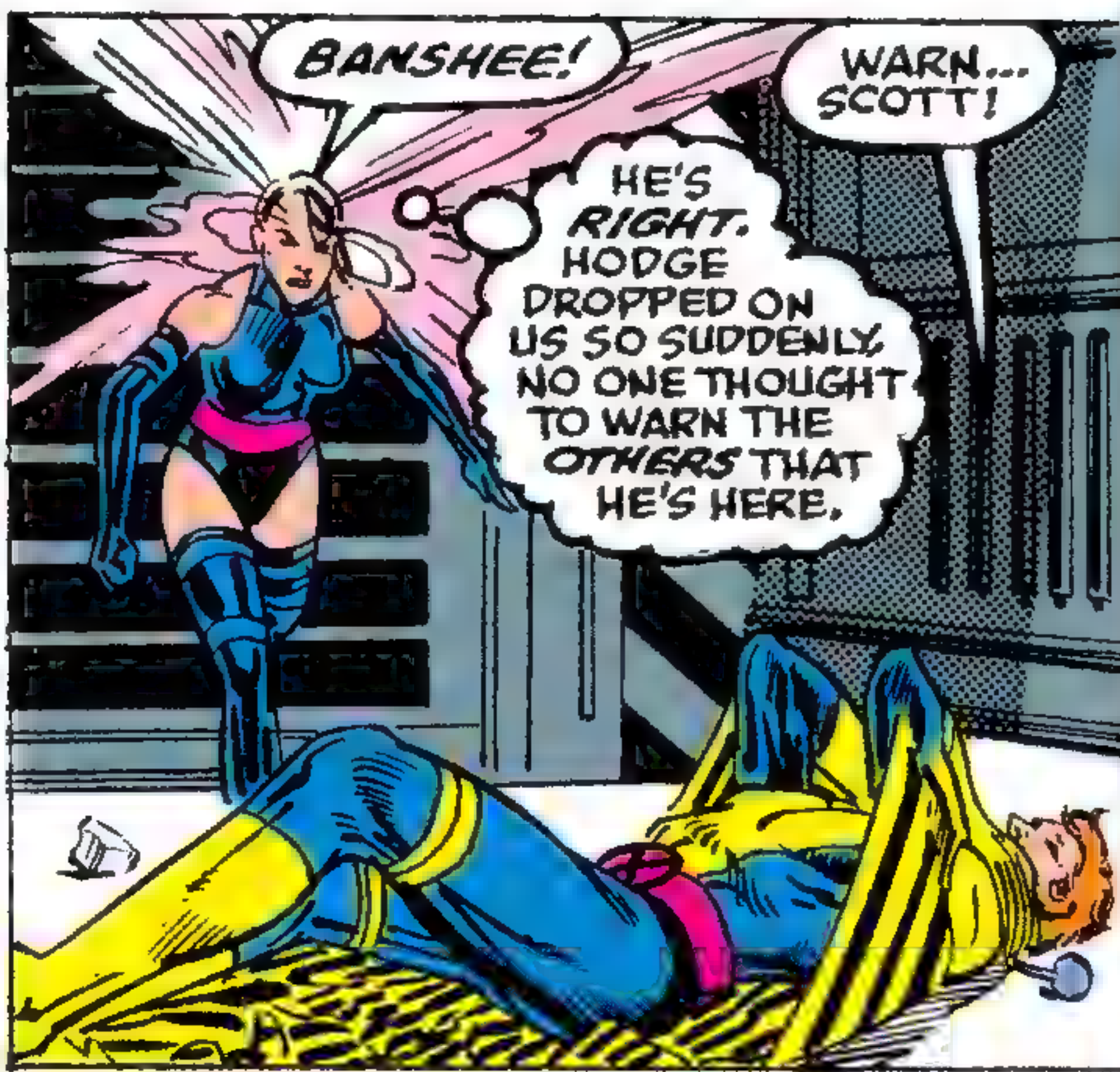
I SAID YOU WOULD BE A TIME BOMB TO DESTROY HIM...

THEN YOU HAVE ACCOMPLISHED YOUR PURPOSE, GENENGINEER.

CAMERON HODGE WILL DIE... BY MY OWN TEETH AND CLAWS IF NEED BE... FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE TO ME...AND WARLOCK AND ALL OF US.



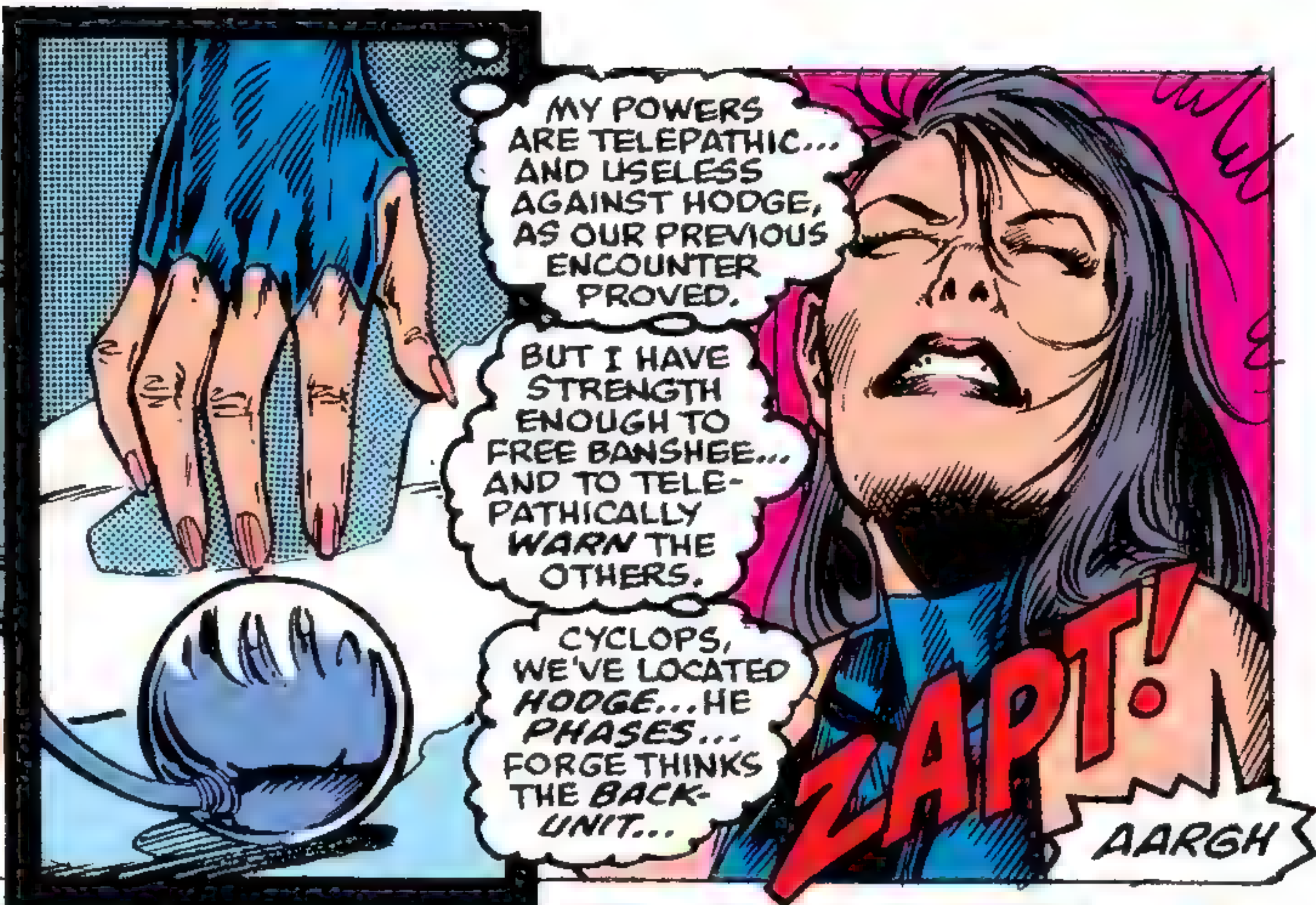




BANSHEE!

WARN... SCOTT!

HE'S RIGHT. HODGE DROPPED ON US SO SUDDENLY NO ONE THOUGHT TO WARN THE OTHERS THAT HE'S HERE.

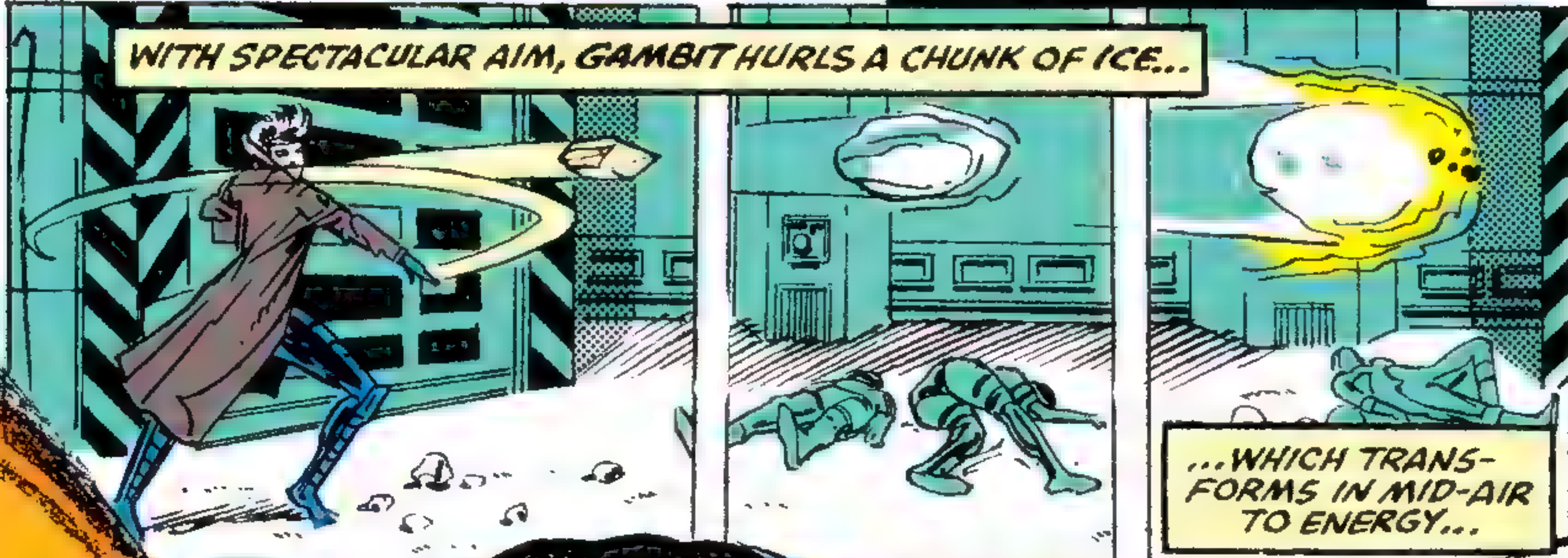


MY POWERS ARE TELEPATHIC... AND USELESS AGAINST HODGE, AS OUR PREVIOUS ENCOUNTER PROVED.

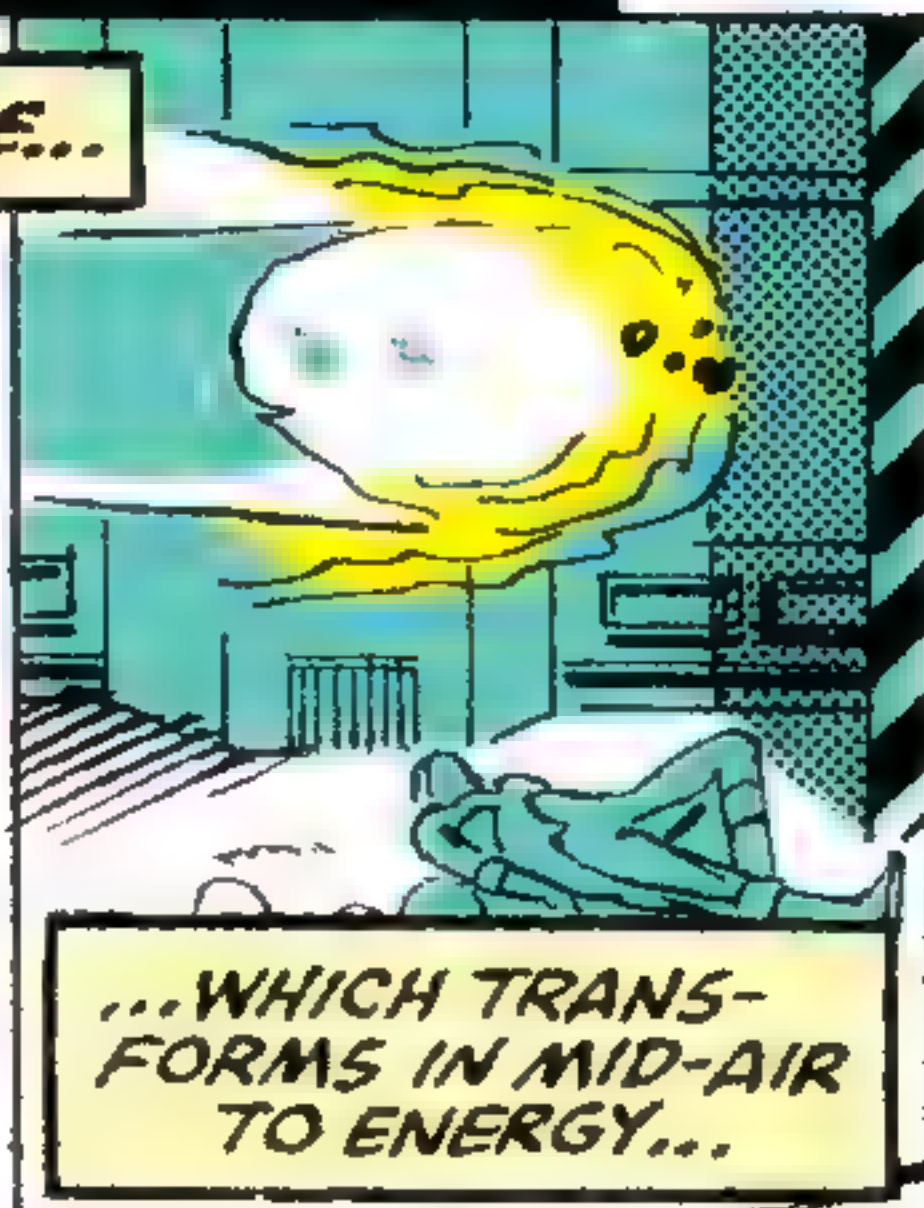
BUT I HAVE STRENGTH ENOUGH TO FREE BANSHEE... AND TO TELEPATHICALLY WARN THE OTHERS.

CYCLOPS, WE'VE LOCATED HODGE... HE PHASES... FORGE THINKS THE BACK-UNIT...

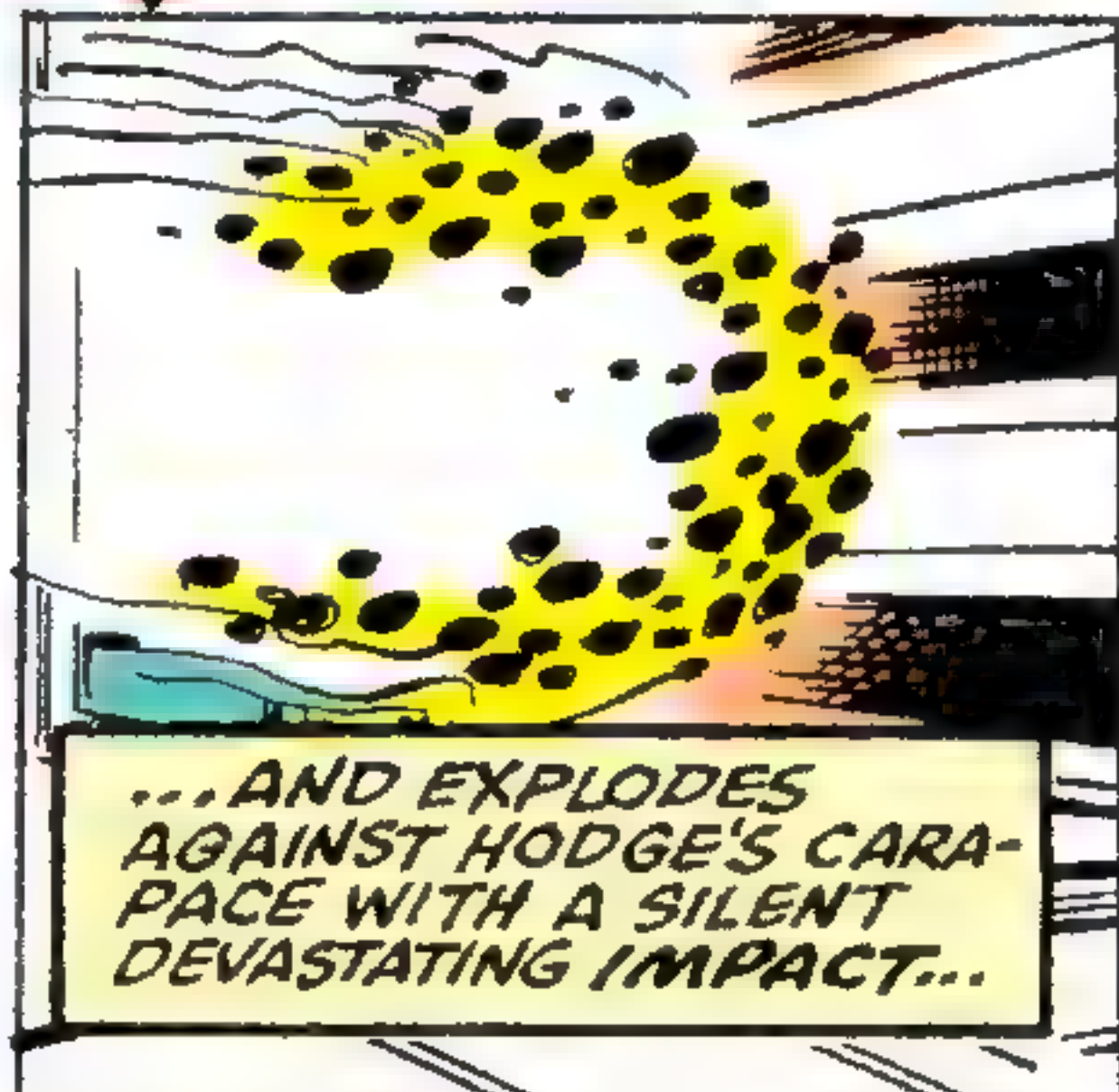
ZAPT!
AARGH



WITH SPECTACULAR AIM, GAMBIT HURLS A CHUNK OF ICE...



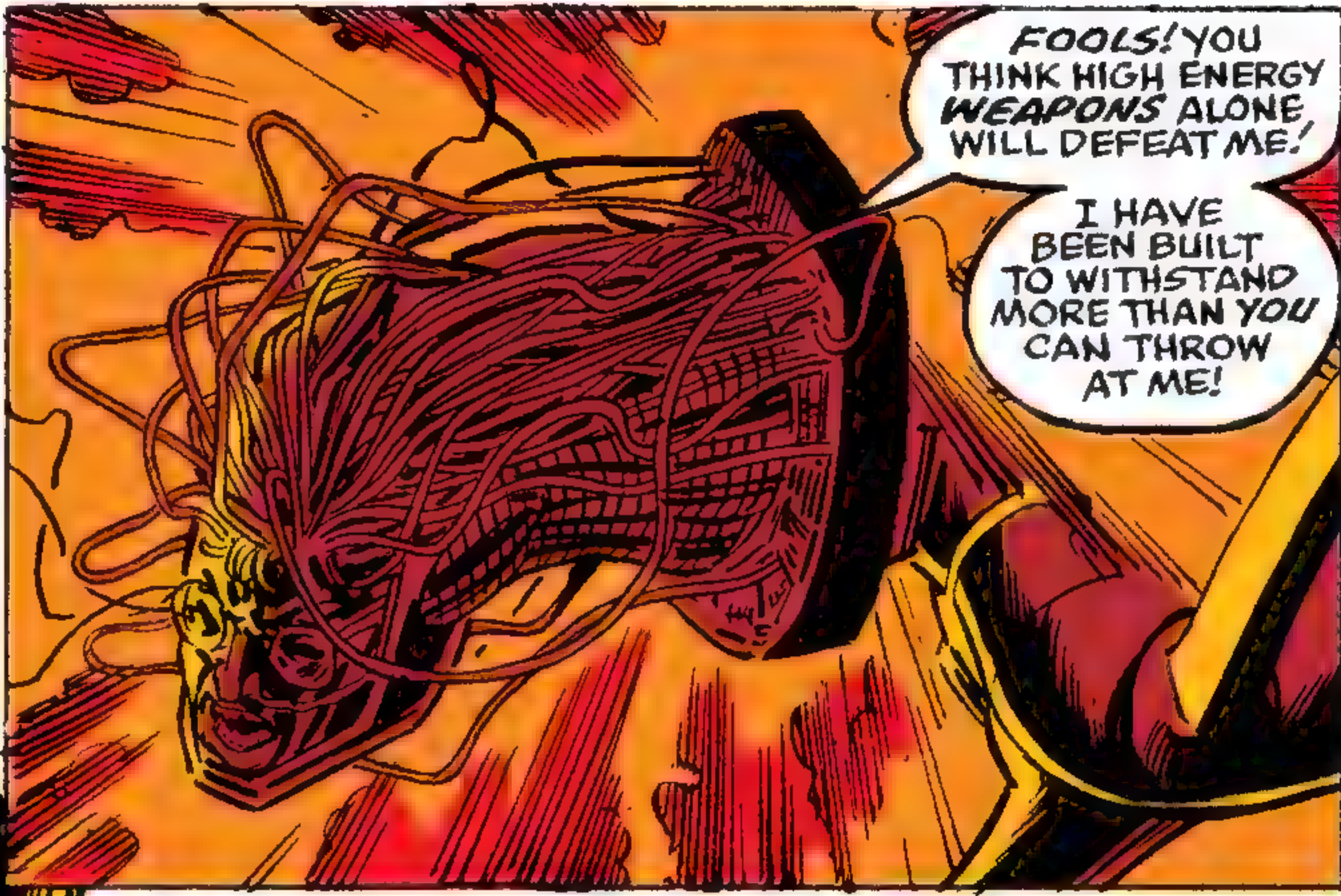
...WHICH TRANSFORMS IN MID-AIR TO ENERGY...



...AND EXPLODES AGAINST HODGE'S CAR-PAGE WITH A SILENT DEVASTATING IMPACT...



...EVEN AS FORGE'S WEAPON HITS HODGE FULL BLAST.



FOOLS! YOU THINK HIGH ENERGY WEAPONS ALONE WILL DEFEAT ME!

I HAVE BEEN BUILT TO WITHSTAND MORE THAN YOU CAN THROW AT ME!



MAYBE, HODGE OL' BOY... BUT IF I CAN RIP OUT ENOUGH WIRES...



...YOU'LL BE AN EMPTY TANK WITH NO ONE TO COMMAND IT.

MEANWHILE, STORM AND THE GENEGINEER FOLLOW CABLE, BOOM-BOOM, RIC, JUBILEE, SUNSPOT AND CANNONBALL INTO HODGE'S NEARLY DESTROYED LAB...

FORGE'S BOMB TOOK OUT A LOT OF HIS EQUIPMENT. TOO BAD IT DIDN'T TAKE HODGE WITH IT.

HIS MAIN COMPUTER IS STILL FEEDING HIM INFORMATION...THOUGH SOME OF HIS ENERGY SOURCES HAVE BEEN DESTROYED. HE'LL BE WEAKENED...

THERE'S WARLOCK, CABLE... ALL THAT'S LEFT OF HIM.

OH, 'LOCK. I TRIED SO HARD TO SAVE YOU. WHY COULDN'T I HAVE PREVENTED THIS HORROR?

YOU KEPT HODGE FROM STEALING WARLOCK'S SHAPE SHIFTING ABILITIES.

HAD HE GAINED THAT POWER, WE WOULD NEVER HAVE HAD A CHANCE AGAINST HIM.

AH DON'T SUPPOSE YOU HAVE ANY PLEASANT SURPRISES FOR US CONCERNIN' WARLOCK?

I WASN'T THERE TO INTERVENE. THE EFFORT TO APPROPRIATE HIS POWER WAS ENTIRELY HODGE'S.

AND WARLOCK... THE KINDEST, GENTLEST, MOST INNOCENT AMONG US... DIED...

... BECAUSE THAT MUTANT-HATING MONSTER DECIDED TO TAKE 'LOCK'S POWER.

LET'S SEE HOW HE REACTS WHEN WE TAKE HIS!

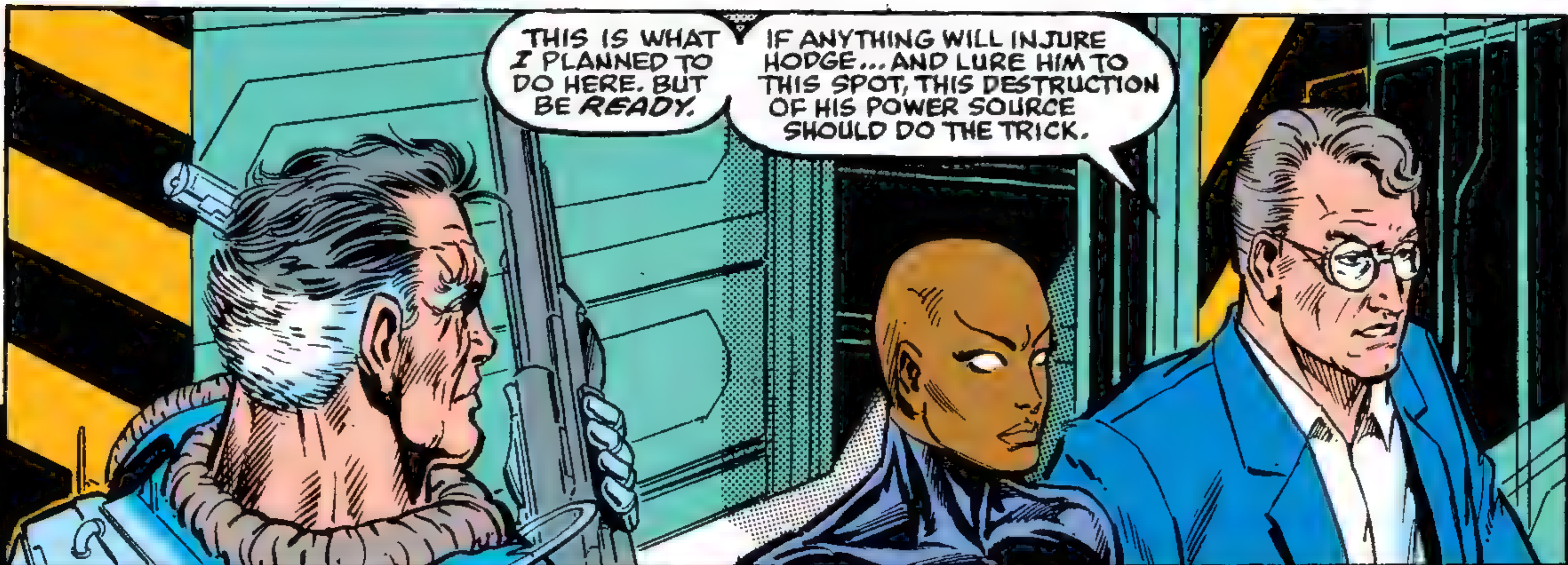
BA-RUMMMMBLE! ROOM!

YEAH, MAN. LET'S SMASH THE EQUIPMENT THAT'S EMPOWERING HODGE...

AND MAYBE, JUST MAYBE, IT WILL WEAKEN HIM ENOUGH SO WE CAN TAKE HIM OUT.

AND A FEW... 3...2...1... TIMEBOMBS...

...PLUS SOME SPECIALLY DESIGNED FIREWORKS... JUST MIGHT DO THE TRICK.



THIS IS WHAT I PLANNED TO DO HERE. BUT BE READY.

IF ANYTHING WILL INJURE HODGE... AND LURE HIM TO THIS SPOT, THIS DESTRUCTION OF HIS POWER SOURCE SHOULD DO THE TRICK.

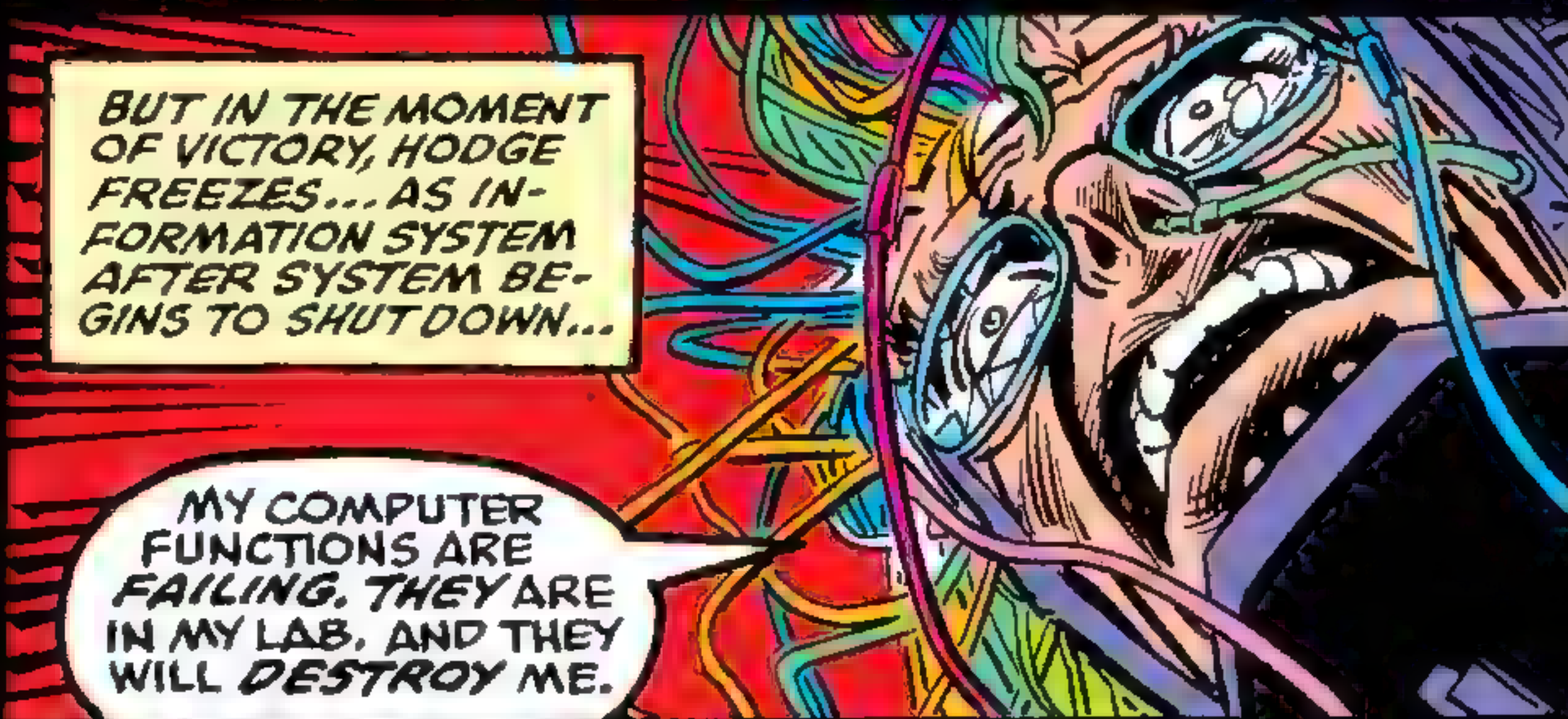


WHILE FLOORS ABOVE...

A BRAVE EFFORT, BEAST. BUT FUTILE.

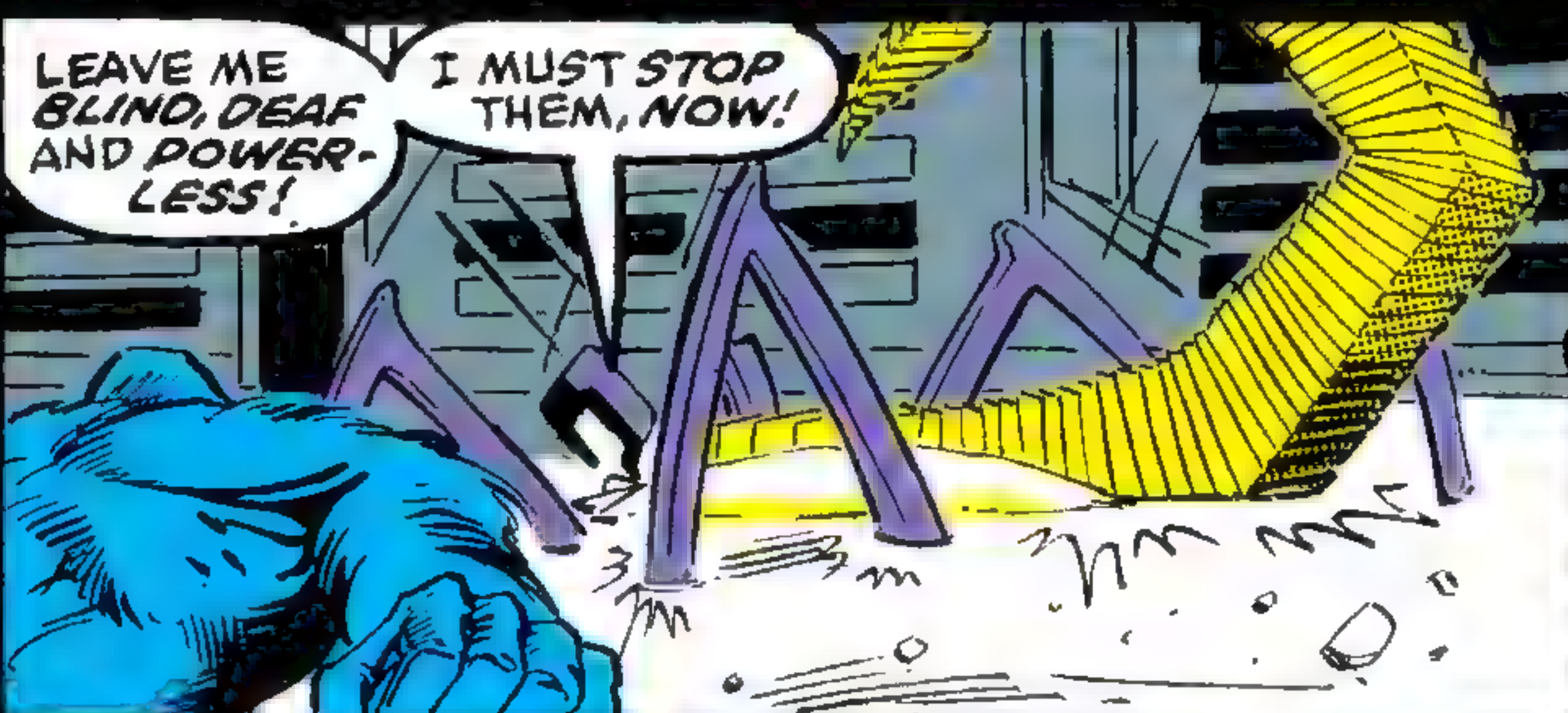
WHILE YOU TRIED TO RIP OUT MY GUTS, I TOOK OUT FORGE AND GAMBIT... AS I WILL NOW DESTROY YOU!

WHAKT!



BUT IN THE MOMENT OF VICTORY, HODGE FREEZES... AS INFORMATION SYSTEM AFTER SYSTEM BEGINS TO SHUT DOWN...

MY COMPUTER FUNCTIONS ARE FAILING. THEY ARE IN MY LAB, AND THEY WILL DESTROY ME.



LEAVE ME BLIND, DEAF AND POWERLESS!

I MUST STOP THEM, NOW!



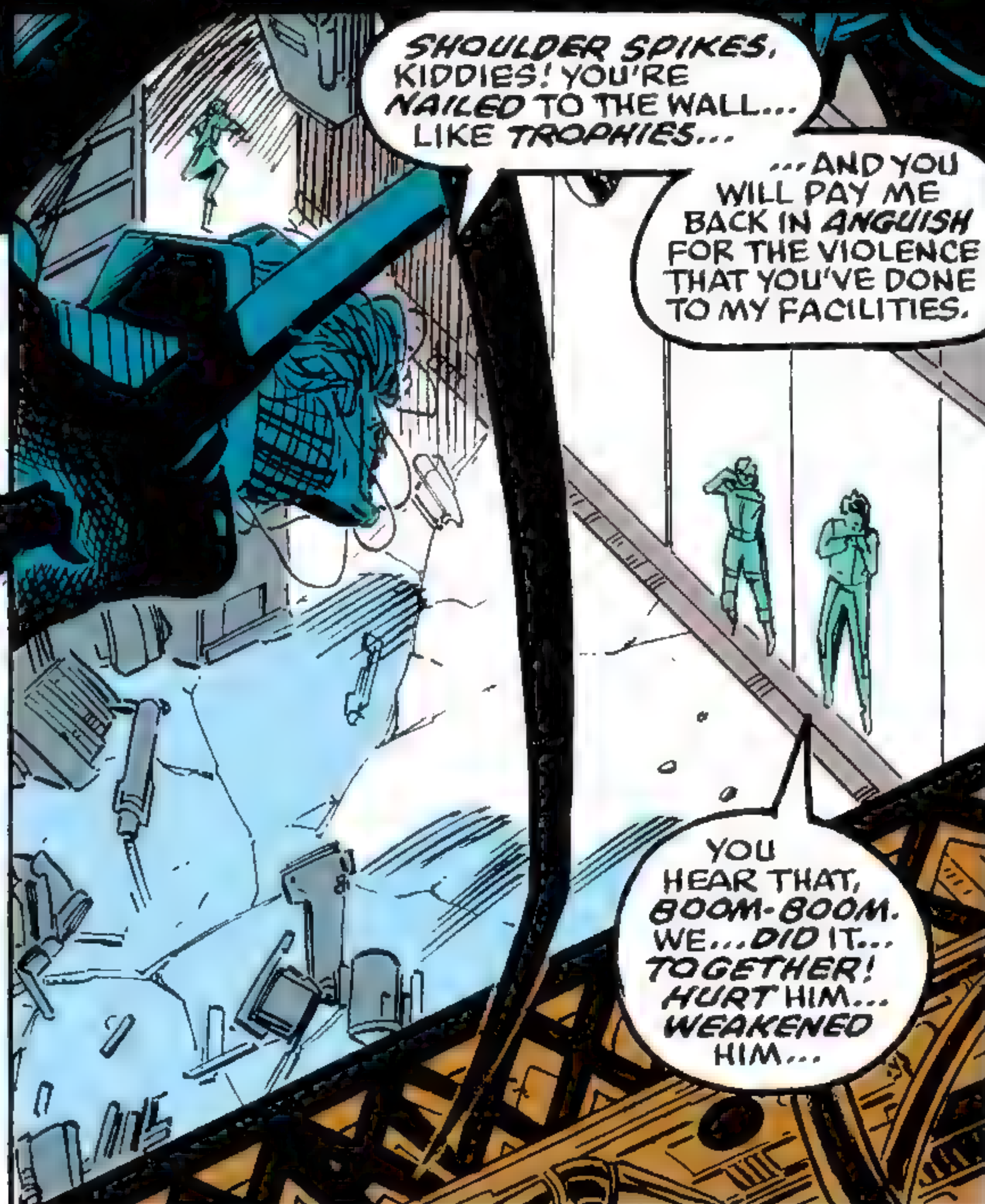
AND, FROM THE CEILING OF HODGE'S LAB...

THOOM THOOM THOOM

YOW!

AARGH!

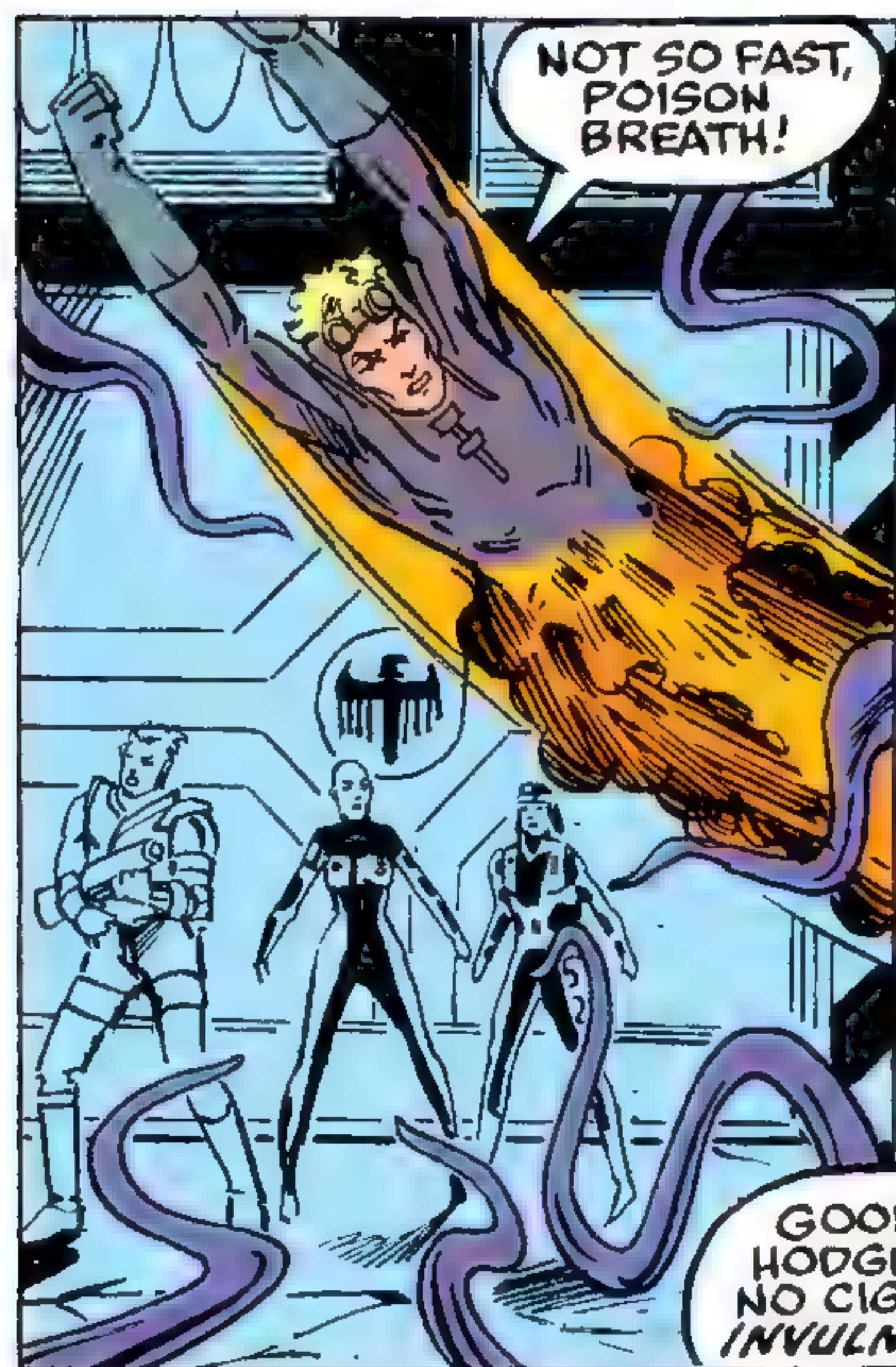
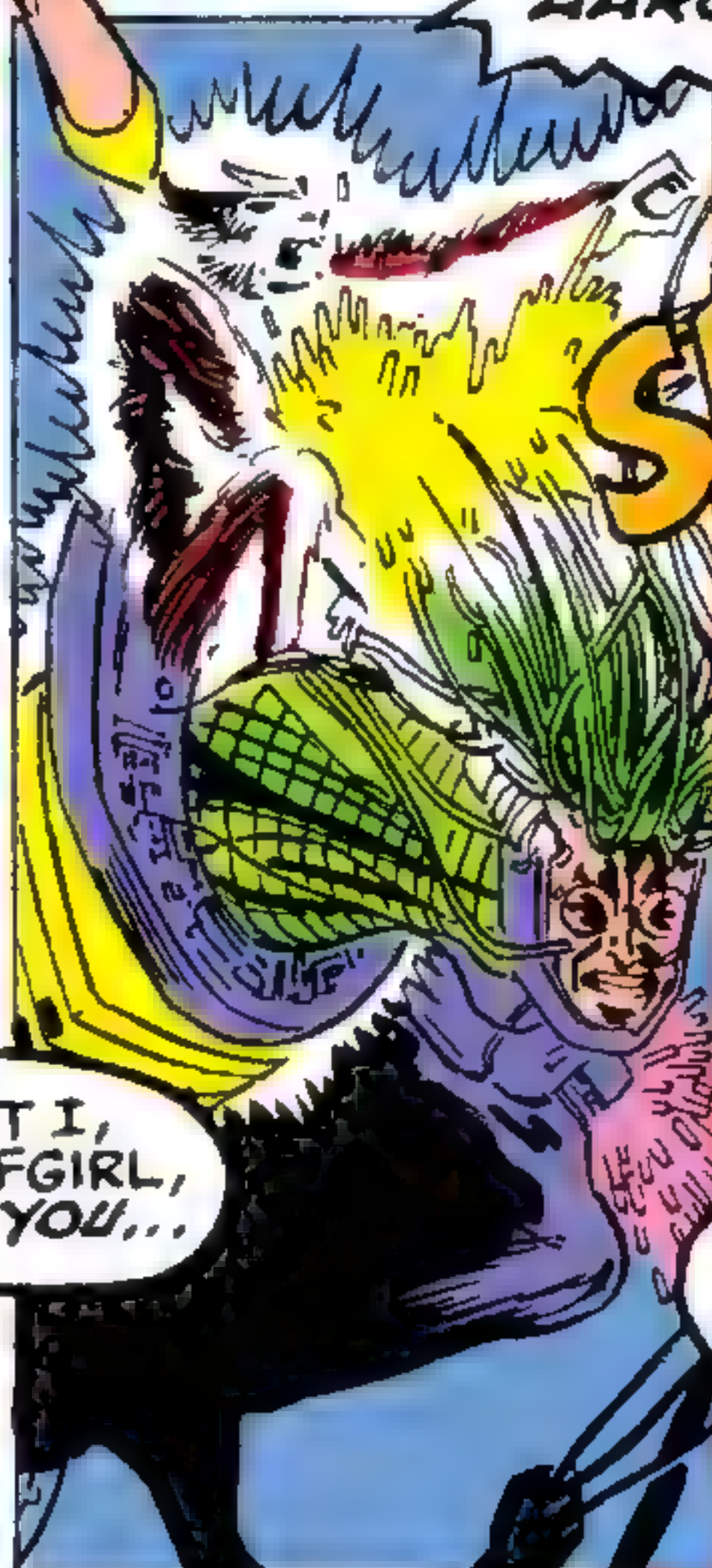
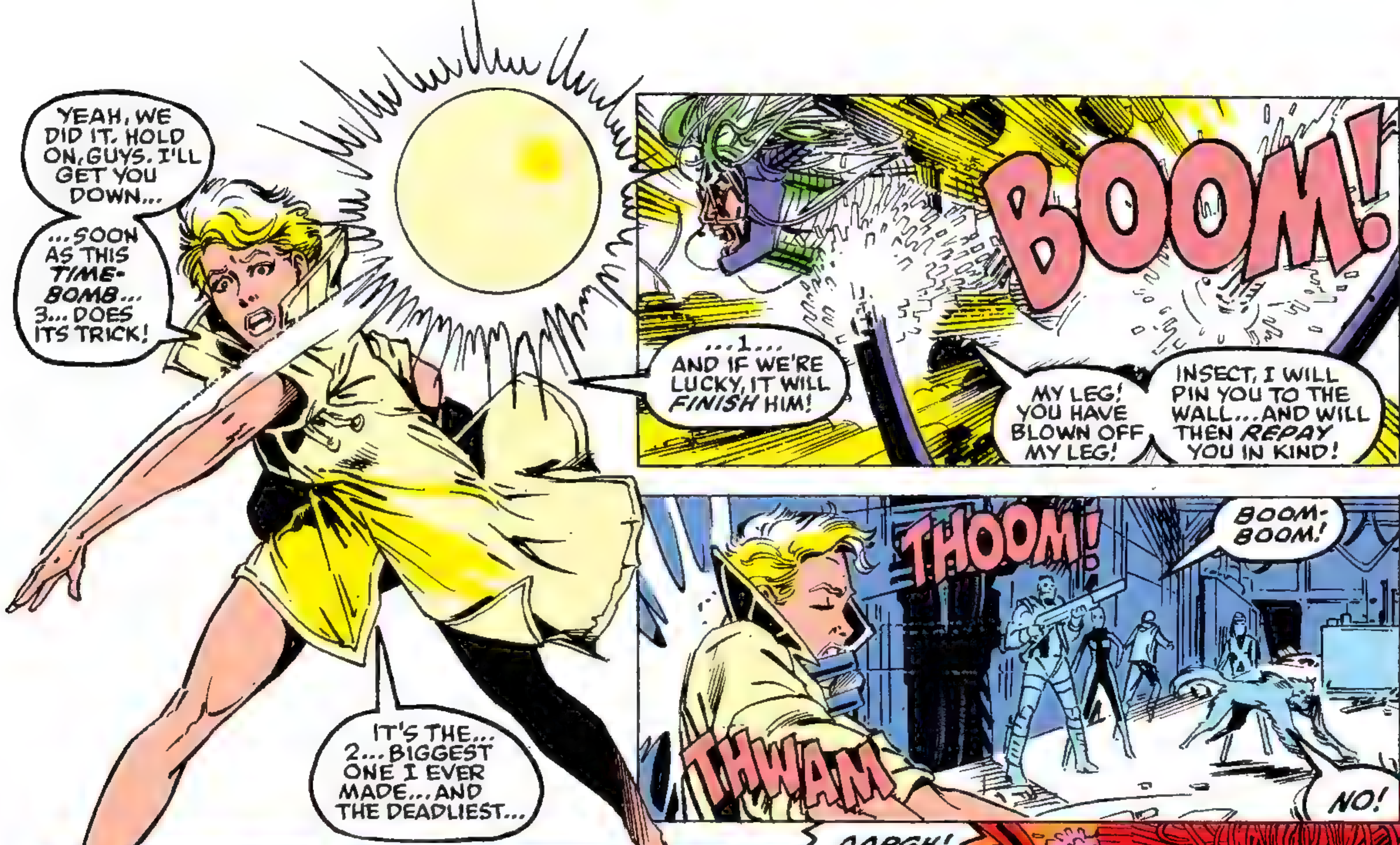
...FOUR PROJECTILES FIND THEIR MARKS...

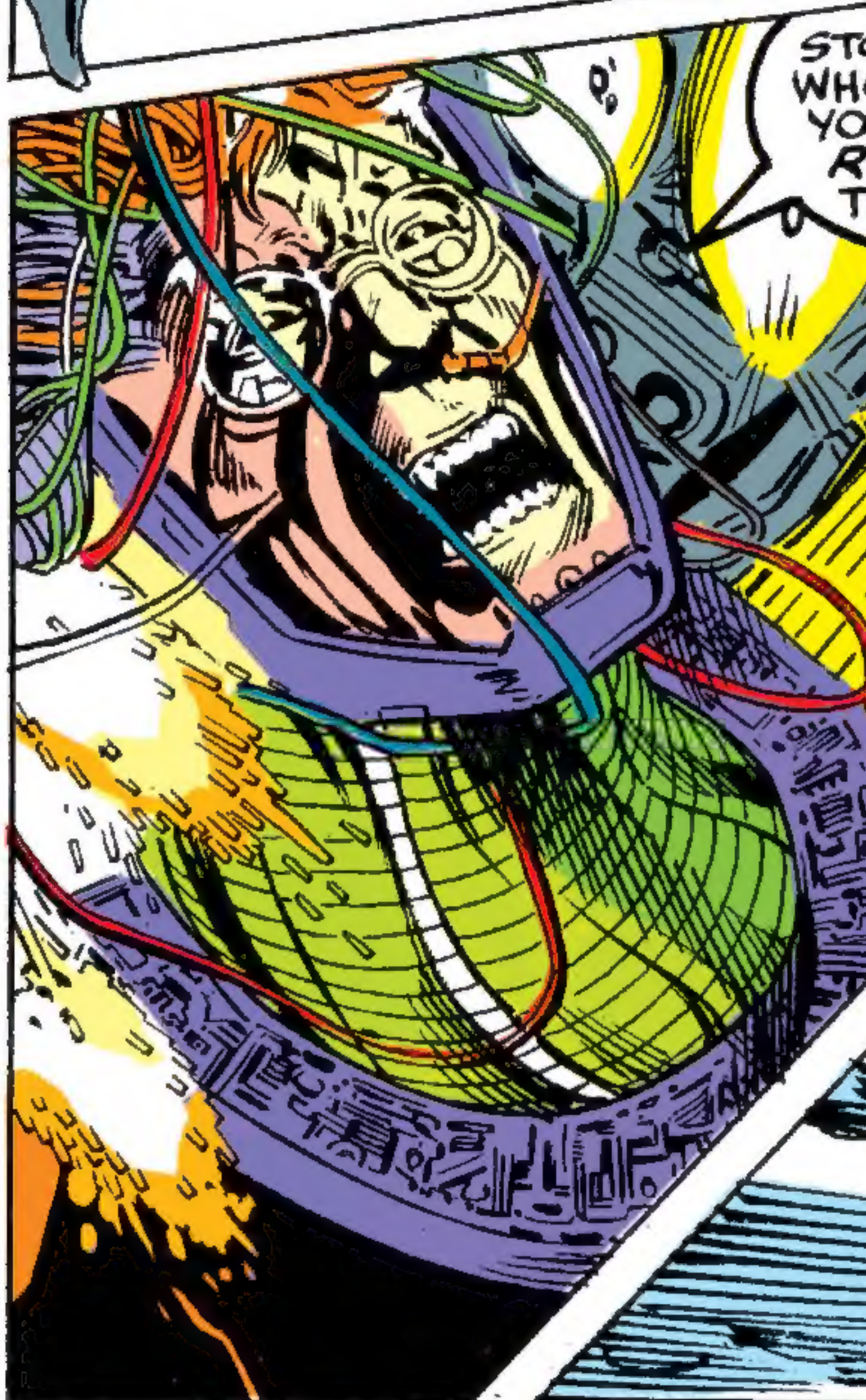
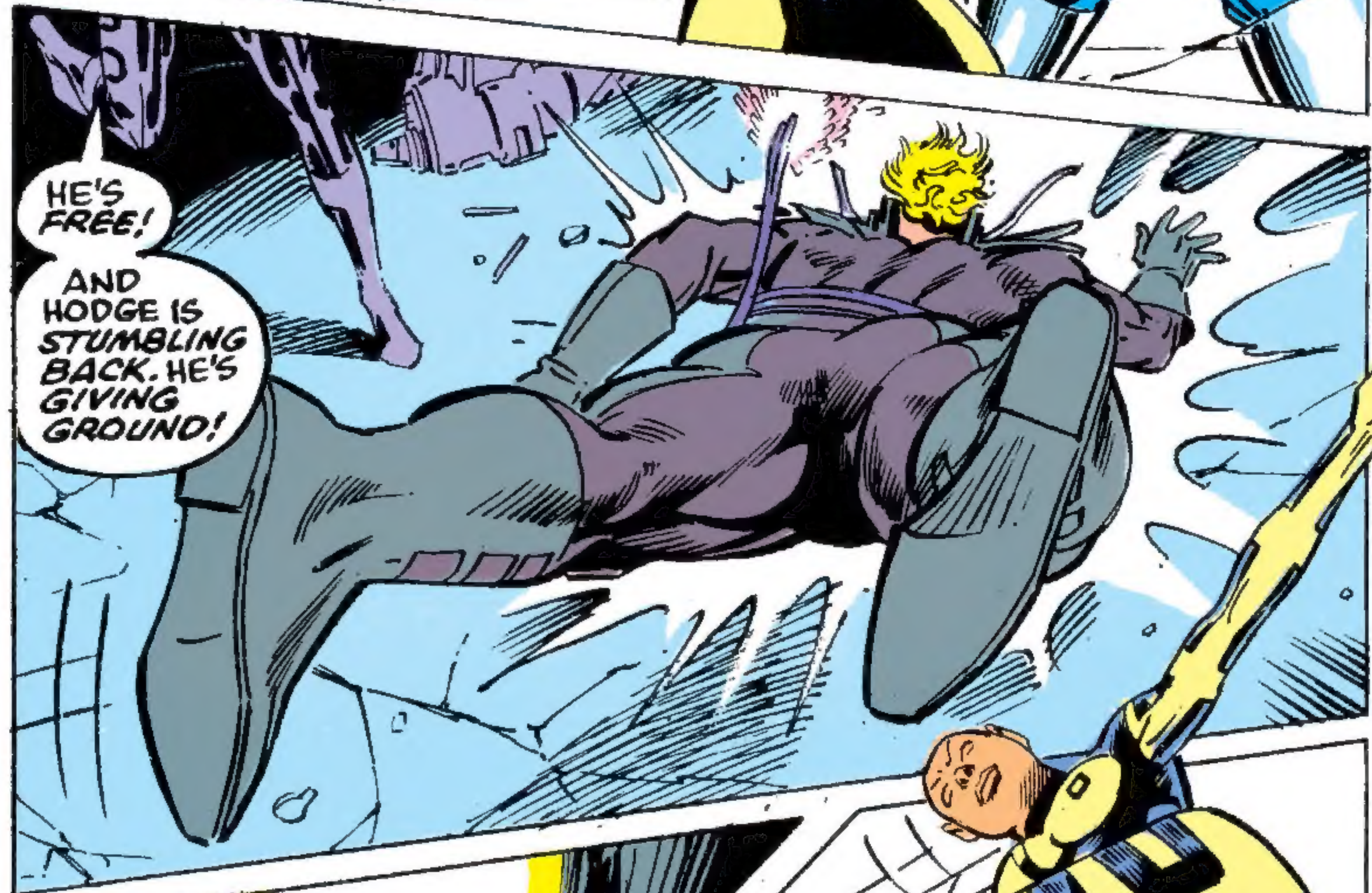
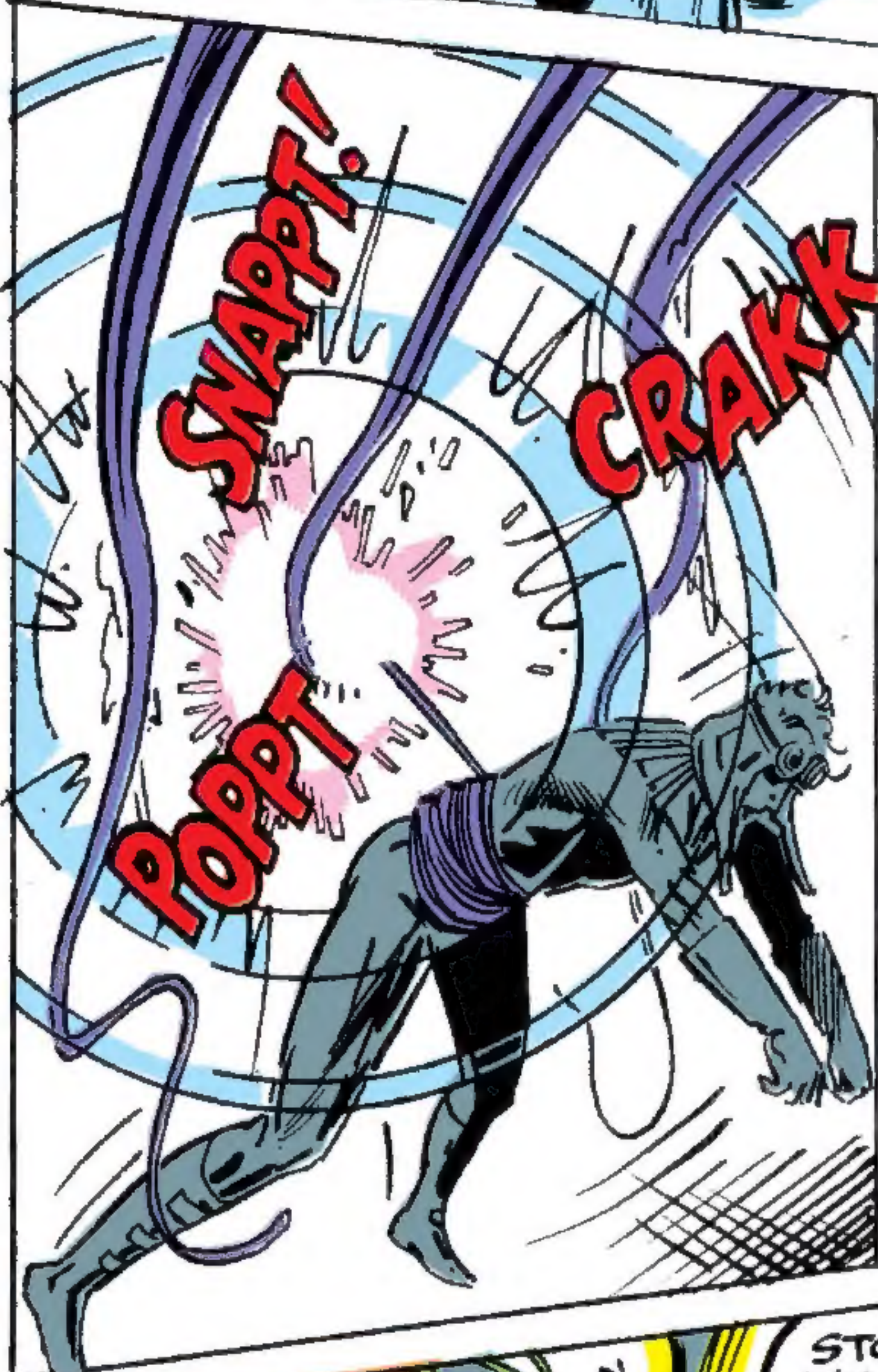


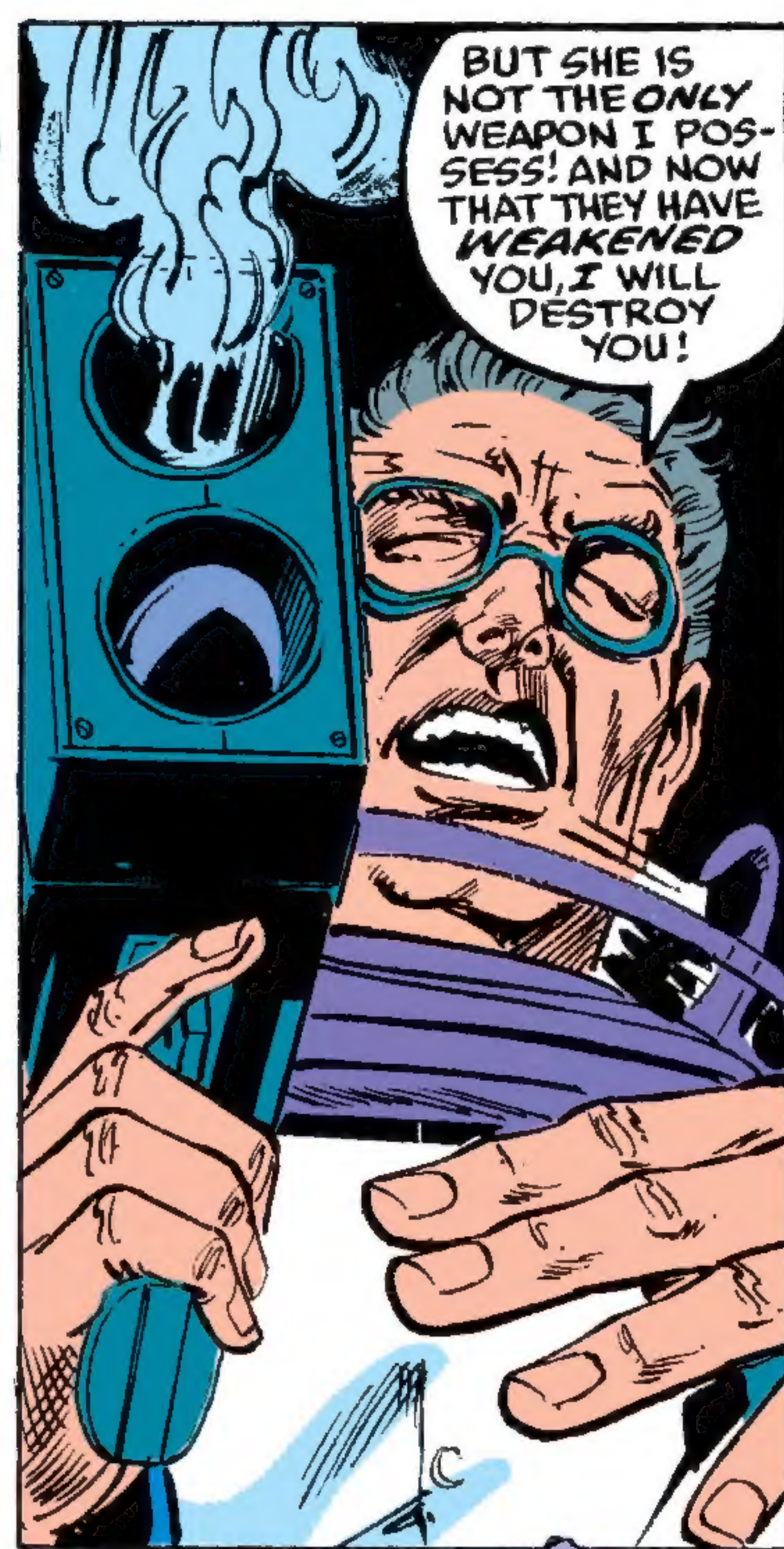
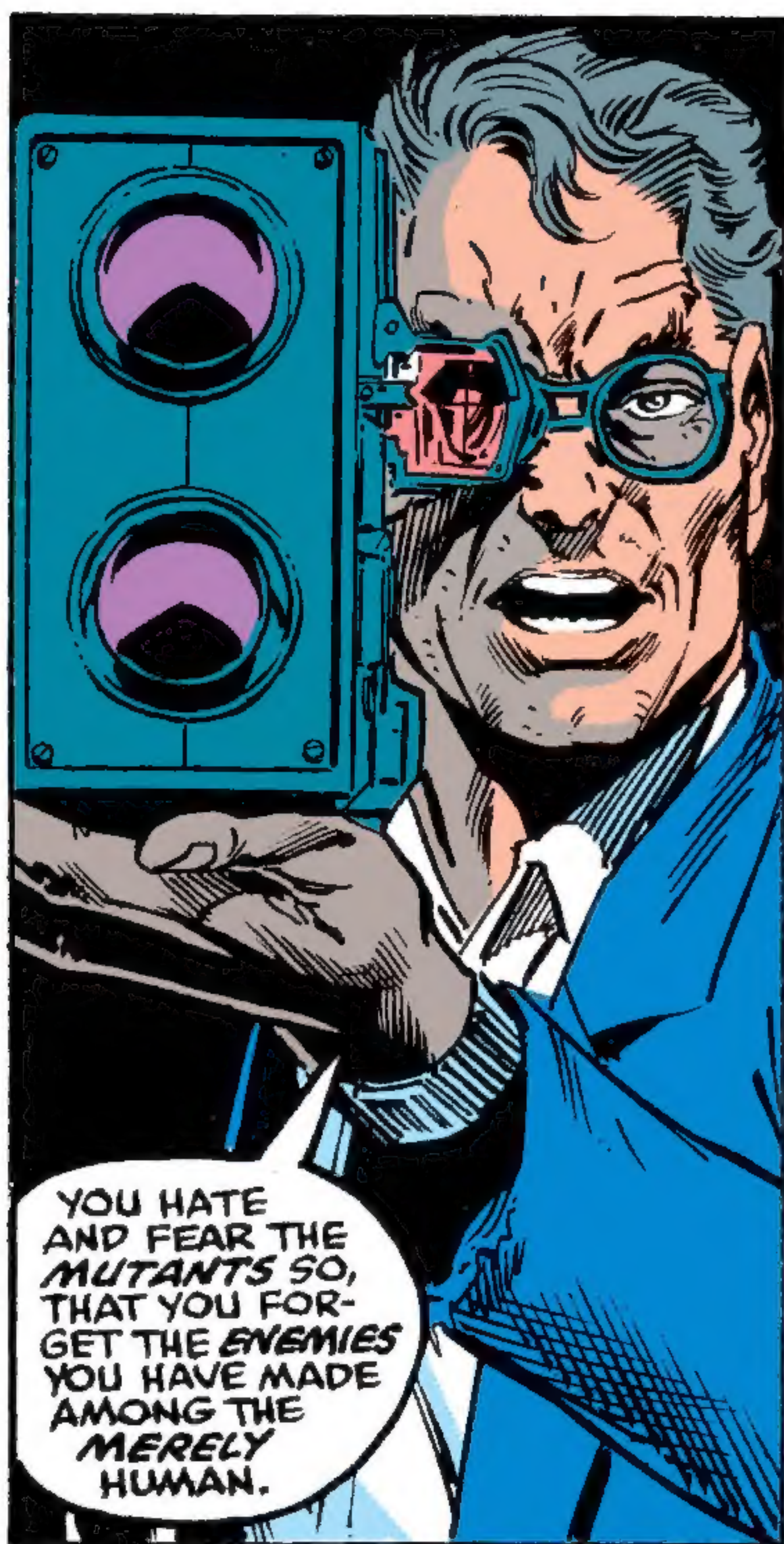
SHOULDER SPIKES, KIDDIES! YOU'RE NAILED TO THE WALL... LIKE TROPHIES...

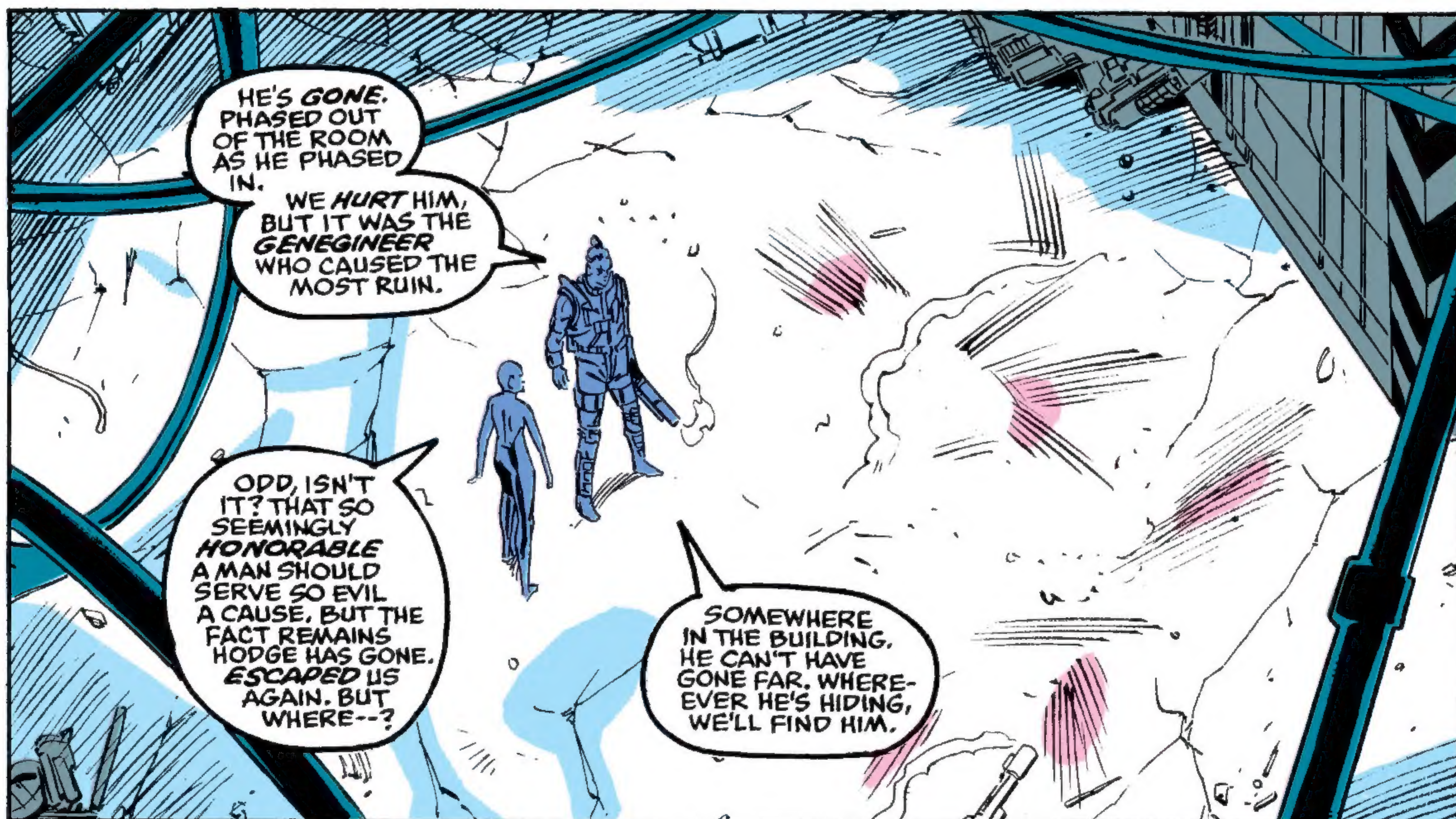
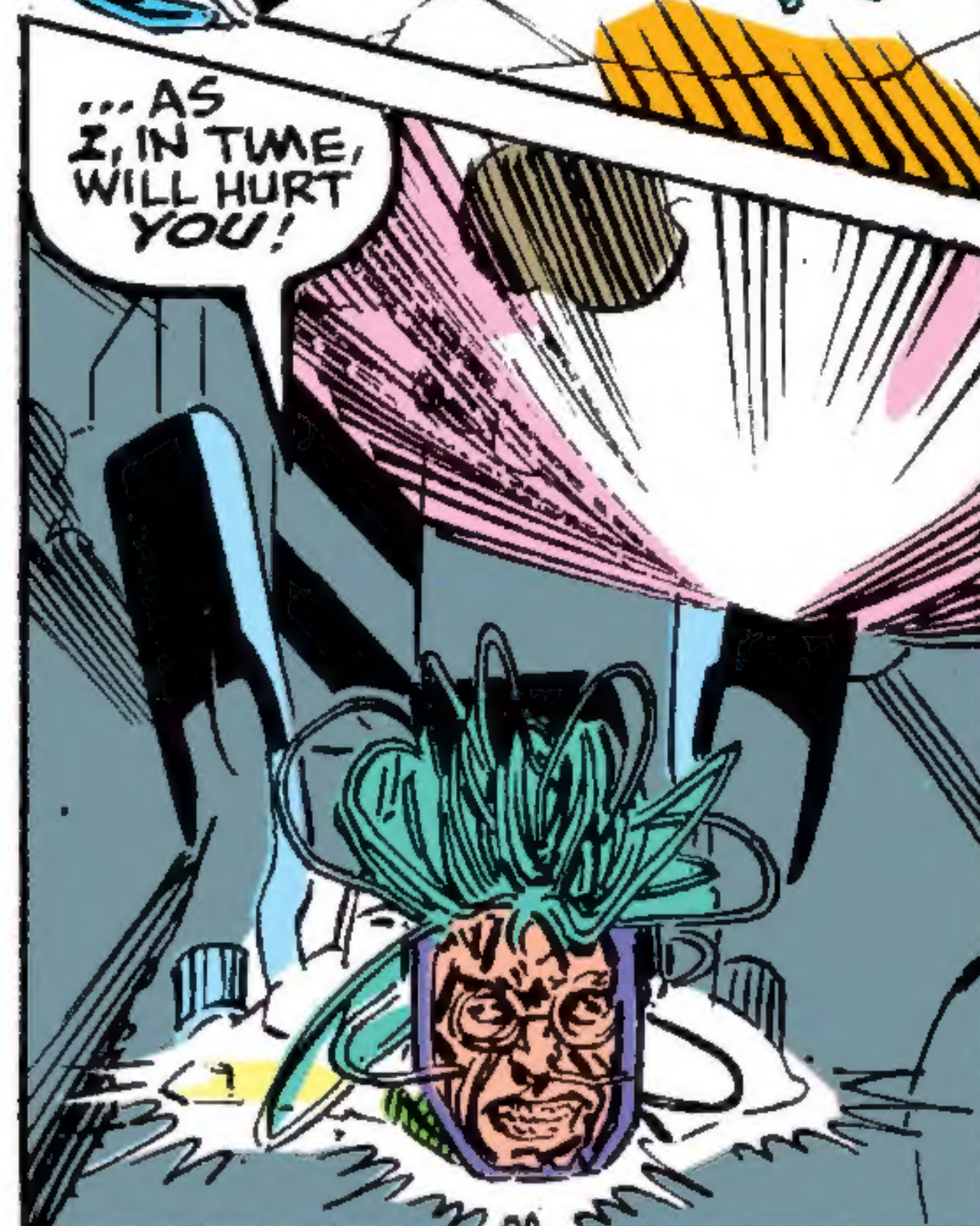
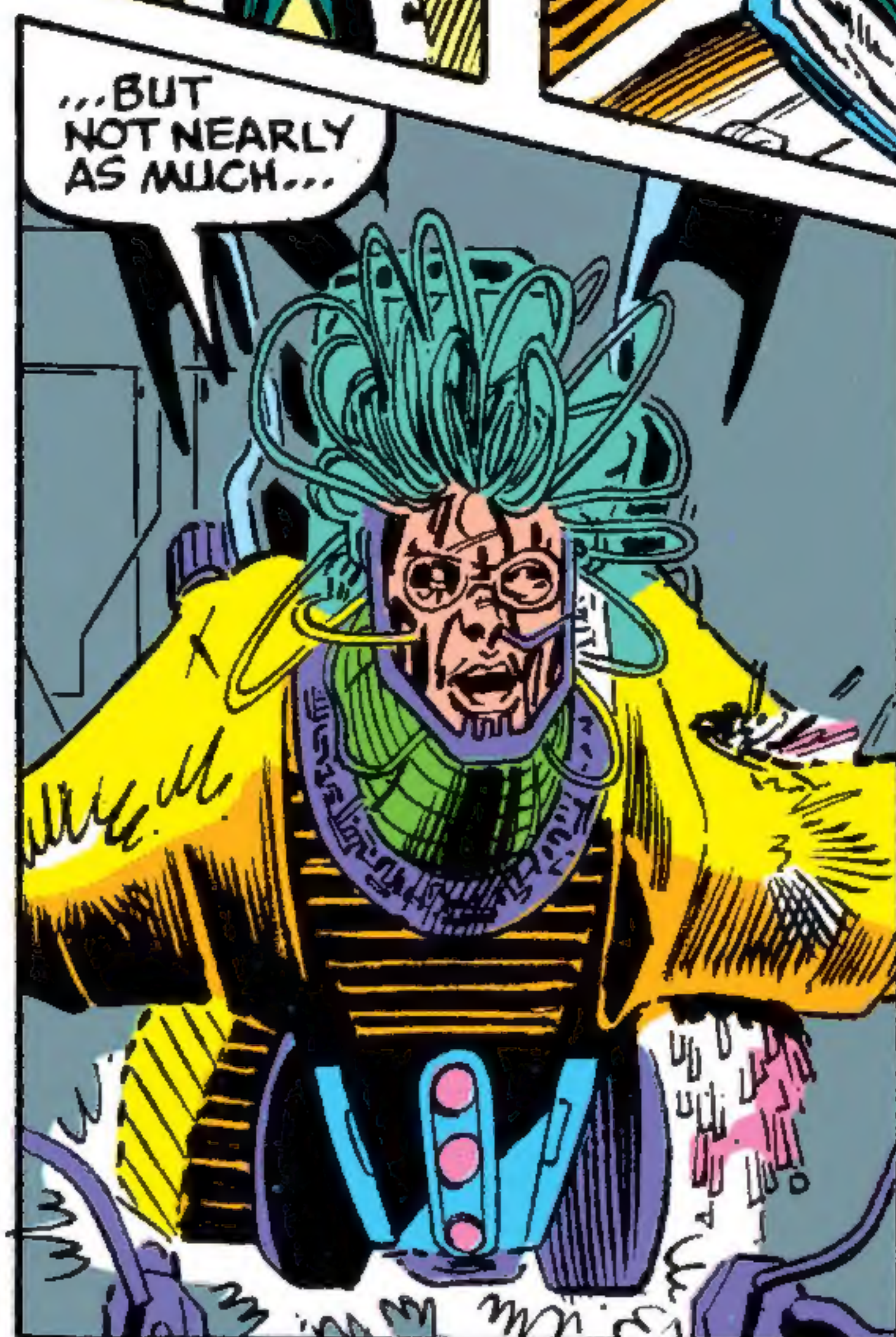
...AND YOU WILL PAY ME BACK IN ANGUISH FOR THE VIOLENCE THAT YOU'VE DONE TO MY FACILITIES.

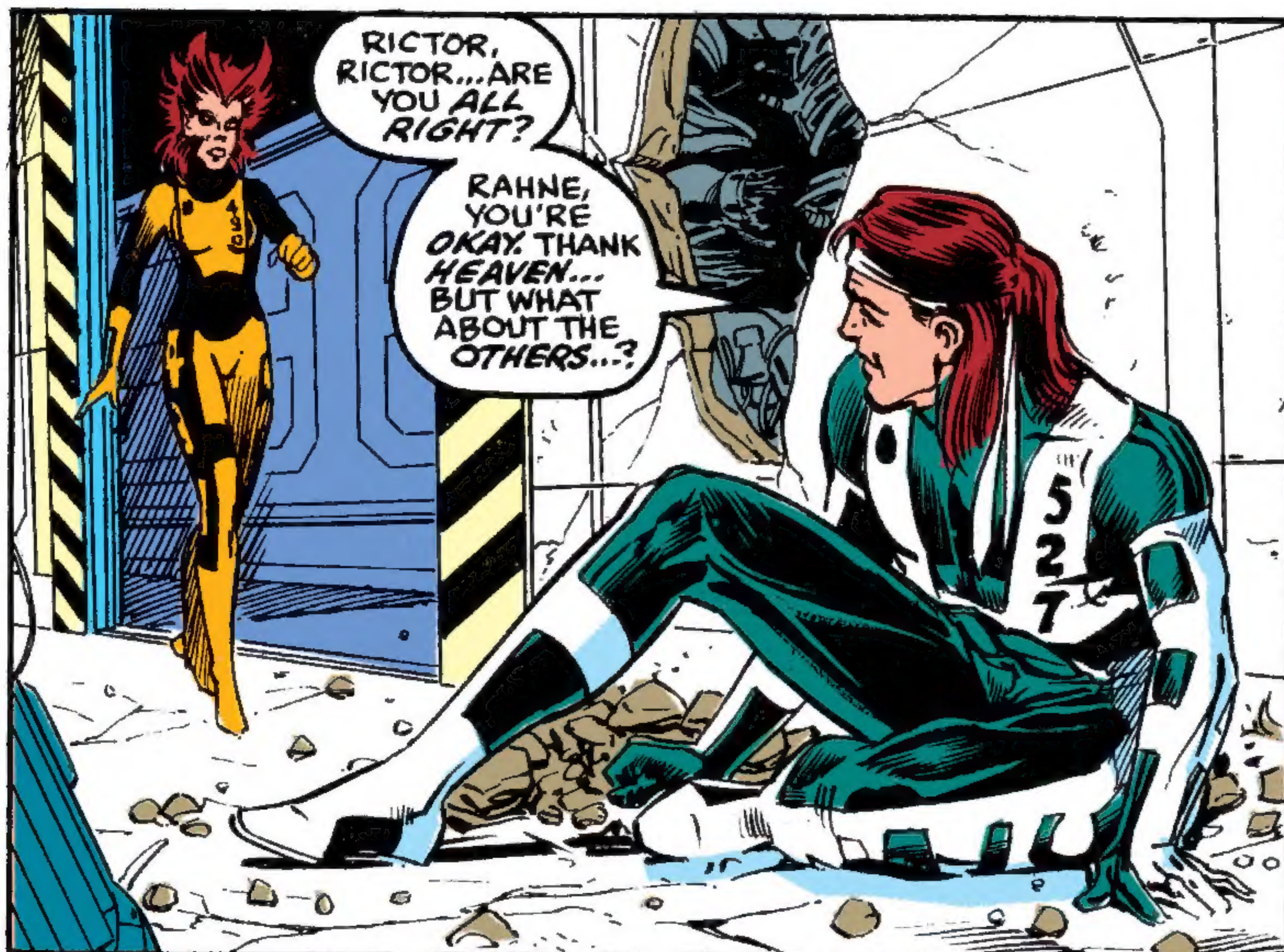
YOU HEAR THAT, BOOM-BOOM. WE... DID IT... TOGETHER! HURT HIM... WEAKENED HIM...









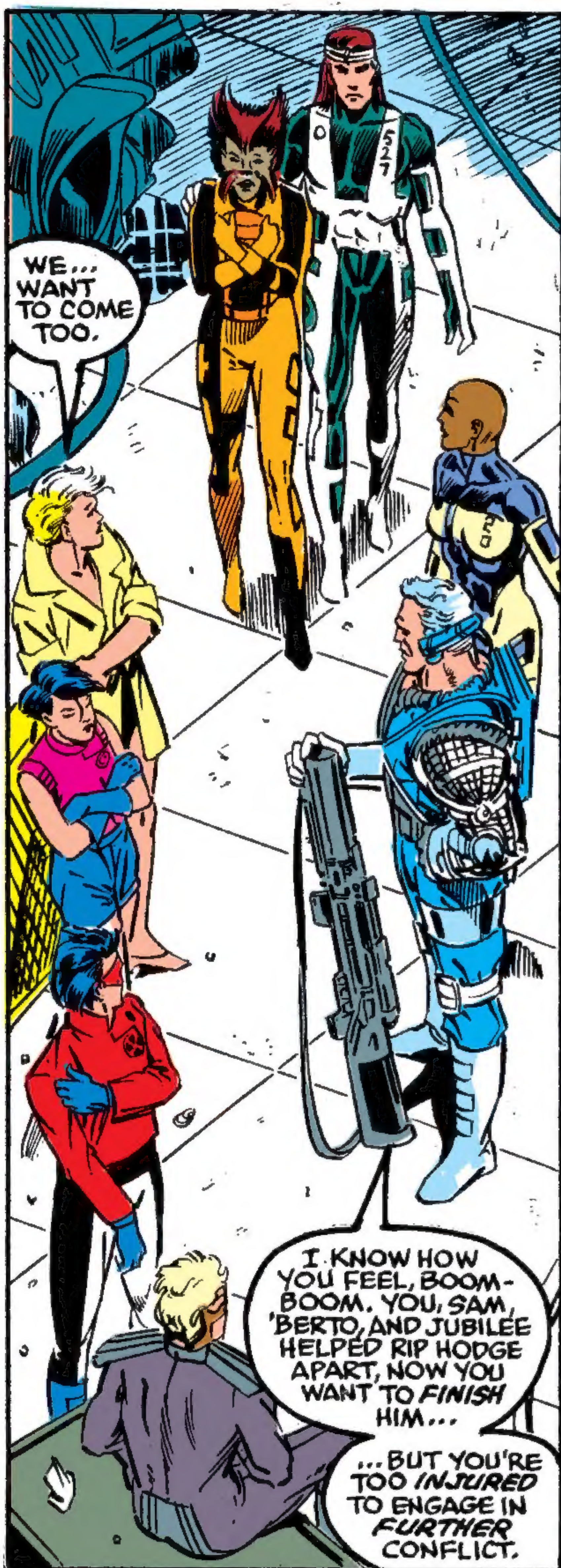


RICTOR,
RICTOR...ARE
YOU ALL
RIGHT?

RAHNE,
YOU'RE
OKAY. THANK
HEAVEN...
BUT WHAT
ABOUT THE
OTHERS...?



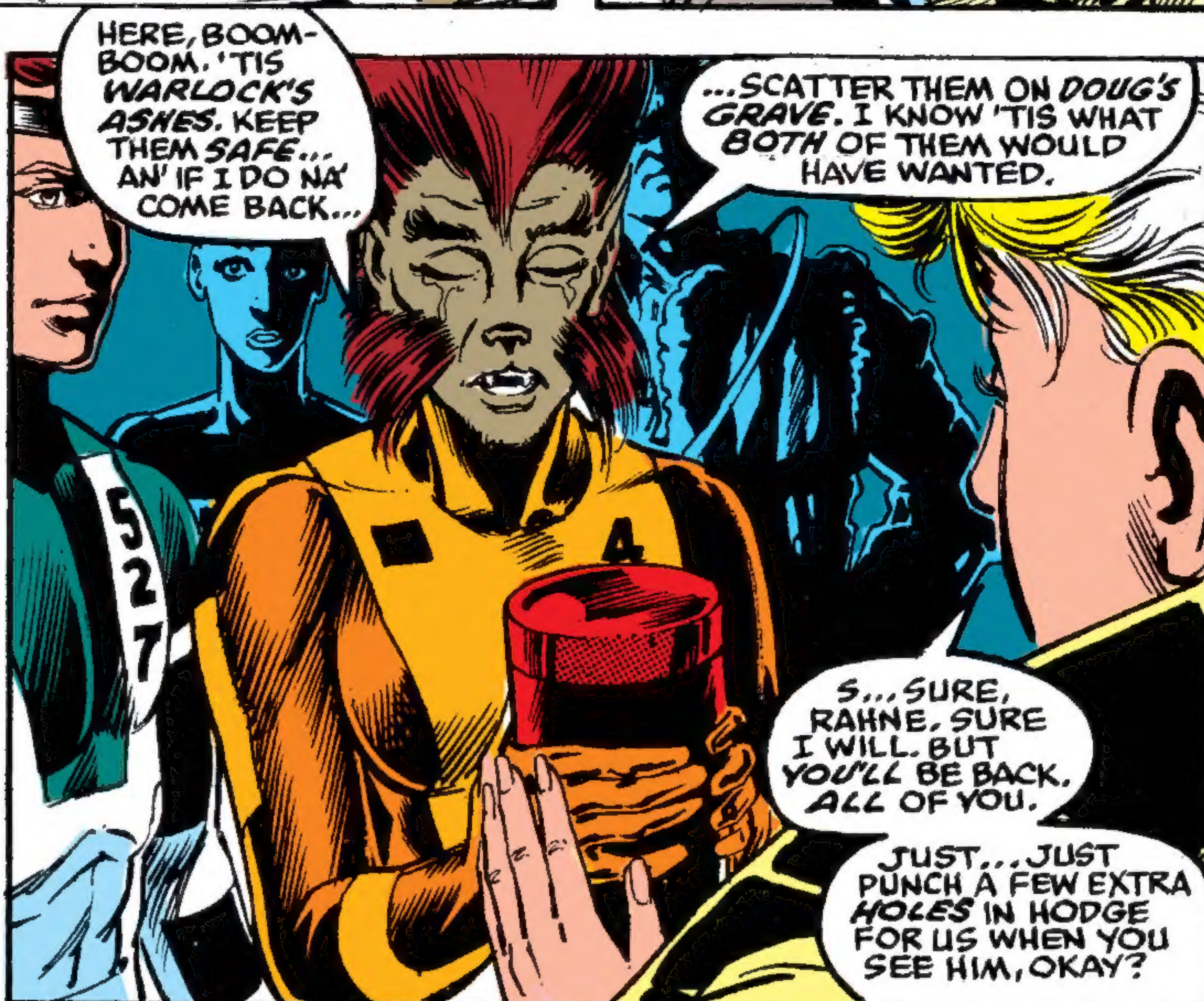
INJURED... BUT
THEY WILL LIVE,
RICTOR. SO WILL
HODGE. WE ARE
GOING TO HAVE
TO GO AFTER
HIM, CABLE.



WE...
WANT TO
COME
TOO.

I KNOW HOW
YOU FEEL, BOOM-
BOOM. YOU, SAM,
'BERTO, AND JUBILEE
HELPED RIP HODGE
APART, NOW YOU
WANT TO FINISH
HIM...

... BUT YOU'RE
TOO INJURED
TO ENGAGE IN
FURTHER
CONFLICT.



HERE, BOOM-
BOOM. 'TIS
WARLOCK'S
ASHES. KEEP
THEM SAFE...
AN' IF I DO NA'
COME BACK...

...SCATTER THEM ON DOUG'S
GRAVE. I KNOW 'TIS WHAT
BOTH OF THEM WOULD
HAVE WANTED.

S... SURE,
RAHNE. SURE
I WILL. BUT
YOU'LL BE BACK.
ALL OF YOU.

JUST... JUST
PUNCH A FEW EXTRA
HOLES IN HODGE
FOR US WHEN YOU
SEE HIM, OKAY?



WE WILL,
BOOM-BOOM.

WORKING
TOGETHER,
WE'VE RIPPED
A BIG HOLE IN
HODGE AND
HIS PLANS FOR
GENOSHA.

NOW WE'RE
GOING TO HUNT
HIM DOWN AND
FINISH WHAT
WE STARTED.

SEE X-FACTOR #62 FOR THE DRAMATIC CONCLUSION OF
THE **X-TINCTION AGENDA**